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Near East & South Asia

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Reaction to U.S. Election

Media for most countries included in the NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT carry reactions to the result of the U.S. presidential election. In Iraq the emphasis is on the defeat of President Bush. Baghdad Radio reports that Saddam Husayn, during a visit to al-Anbar Governorate, said: "Bush fell long ago, when he attacked Baghdad." Saddam later fired several rounds from his pistol "as a symbol that Iraq will survive...while the tyrants and spiteful ones are falling one after another."

In Iran, an unattributed Tehran radio commentary said that Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. elections will "allow the Democratic Party to formulate a new U.S. strategy for enforcing the new world order theory." The victory, according to the commentary, will allow the U.S. to "bring about a new power equation in favor of the American ruling clique at the international level in a manner suited to the new economic conditions."

Egyptian President Mubarak, in a cable expressing his "sincere and heartfelt congratulations" to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton on his recent victory, noted that he would "look forward to deepening the ties of amity and friendship between your country and the Arab nation's peoples and to giving strong momentum to the ongoing efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East—efforts in which several U.S. presidents have played prominent and key roles, notably your predecessor President George Bush," according to MENA.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir is quoted by Amman radio as saying: "We hope that the United States will continue to be committed to the Middle East peace process, a process based on international legitimacy and represented in the implementation of the UN resolutions, particularly those dealing with the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, namely the Palestine question. The President-elect is apparently greatly concerned about the Middle East question."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, asked by a Jerusalem radio correspondent whether the new administration would hurt the peace talks, said: "The negotiations will continue. We will meet the three Arab delegations in Washington on 9 November, and I am sure that both Bush and Clinton support the negotiations to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict."

According to Delhi radio, Indian Prime Minister Rao, in offering Clinton his congratulations, noted that while "only a fraction of the enormous potential for bilateral economic collaboration has been realized" between India and the United States, cooperation can be promoted based on the "many values the United States of America and India jointly cherish."

Pakistan's President Khan greeted the U.S. President-elect, according to Islamabad TV, and "expressed the hope that the new U.S. Administration and the Government of Pakistan will be able to build on the foundation of past friendship and cooperation and make fruitful contributions in addressing the problems that lie ahead.

Inter-Arab Affairs

*Foreign Ministers To Review Talks Strategy

93P40033A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] Cairo—Arab sources in Cairo have said that the foreign ministers of the countries that border Israel will hold a meeting on 7 November, before the second session of the seventh round of bilateral talks convenes this Monday.

The sources said that during consultations that were recently conducted with certain Arab capitals, including Egypt, the PLO requested that this meeting be held quickly to ensure Arab agreement during the meetings of these ministers in Damascus, Amman, and Beirut regarding simultaneous settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The sources explained that the PLO had affirmed the importance of holding this meeting in light of the American election results and to review the Arab negotiating strategy in case of a change in the American administration.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Sends Congratulations to Clinton

LD0411230292 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Jeddah, 4 Nov (SPA)—Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has extended warm congratulations and best wishes to His Excellency Bill Clinton on the occasion of his election as President of the United States of America.

In a congratulatory cable to His Excellency Bill Clinton, Algabid wished him success in his new mission entrusted to him by the American people. Algabid said: "The Islamic world looks to the new U.S. administration to express the principles of freedom, justice, and the right to self-determination for the oppressed peoples in dealing with the problems of the Islamic world, including the problems of Palestine and Bosnia-Hercegovina."

Algabid has also sent a cable to His Excellency U.S. President George Bush, expressing his satisfaction with the close relations established between the ICO and the administration of President Bush throughout his presidency. He saluted the prominent contribution made by President George Bush in the efforts being exerted by the international community in the search for satisfactory solutions to the problems concerning the Islamic world.

Palestinian Affairs

Reactions to U.S. Presidential Election Results

'Ashrawi Sees 'Continuity' in U.S. Policy

NC0511095592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by Voice of Lebanon correspondent Nuhad al-Hayik in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Hayik] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, we would like you to comment on Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential elections.

['Ashrawi] The U.S. voters have chosen Clinton. It is obvious that their choice was made purely on the basis of U.S. domestic issues. Foreign policy did not play any major role in the presidential race. This naturally means that the new administration will focus on domestic issues, on the basis of which it was elected. It also is obvious, however, that there is a continuing U.S. foreign policy. Anyone who examines the continuity of this policy will find there has been no essential change in it for several years. This policy is not linked to a certain party or person. There is continuity and there are objective requirements and foreign factors affecting this policy.

[Al-Hayik] Clinton's often-declared stands, however, reveal a clear bias in favor of Israel. The Democratic Party's platform includes a paragraph affirming the party's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. In view of this clear bias, how can the U.S. role be fair and just in the peace process or in its relations with the Arabs and Israel?

['Ashrawi] First of all, the U.S. position at any stage since the formation of the State of Israel cannot be considered neutral or fair. U.S. policy has always been tilted in Israel's favor since it was established. This is nothing new. If we compare the election postures—even of the Republicans—in previous elections, we will find there has been no change in the basic stands. This is because the election promises, even the election threats, cannot be taken seriously and cannot be considered a new policy that could be applied. Every new president during the election period has promised to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. This is because he wanted to obtain the pro-Israeli Jewish votes in the United States. This does not mean a lot to us. What matters is who will be secretary of state. Will he be a strong personality having long-standing ties with the region and knowledge of its issues? Who will be on the advisory team to the secretary of state and the President? Naturally, there are several proposed names, some of whom worked with to the Carter administration and some who were close associates of McGovern and Fulbright. These people have much experience. There also are people close to AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] and to the

pro-Israeli lobby in the United States. The identity of the U.S. secretary of state, the advisers, and those on the team working at the State Department will have an effect.

We do not expect dramatic developments or drastic changes. It is not easy for any individual to take stands that contradict international legitimacy, official declared U.S. stands, and U.S. interests. Any U.S. president, when he takes office, will know that it is difficult to deal with Israel in this way. It is in the U.S. interest to have positive and constructive relations with the Arab states.

[Al-Hayik] Do you believe the Bush administration has been fair to the Arabs?

['Ashrawi] For the record and history, we must admit that this political process is the making of Bush and Baker. It is an important historic dimension. It is a positive achievement. It will be difficult for Clinton to undermine or wreck such an achievement. On the contrary, he will enter a profitable process and try to reap its fruits. It also is difficult, however, to say that the Bush administration has been fair with or biased in favor of the Arabs, because U.S. policy in general remains characterized by bias in Israel's favor. Even in the loan guarantees issue, the Bush administration was influenced by internal election considerations. If we see the services the Bush administration gave Israel during the Gulf war regarding relations in the area and other issues, we see it has served Israel's interests. Bush also served Israel's interests regarding the issue of Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Despite all these services, the pro-Israeli lobby in the United States did not help Bush's reelection for several reasons. The Jewish voters have internal considerations that do not all deal with Bush's stand or with the administration's position on Israel.

[Al-Hayik] As a Palestinian delegation, do you regret the absence of James Baker from the peace process?

['Ashrawi] It is obvious that Baker's absence will have an effect because he was one of the creators of this process. He was eager to start and continue this process. He effectively intervened several times to persuade the parties to continue the talks. In the coming two or three months, however, we believe Baker will play an active role if there is an agreement during the transitional period between the new and old administrations to intensify political activity to achieve some progress on which the new administration can build. In my opinion, this depends on Clinton's desire to deal with the old administration during the transitional period. It also depends on the parties' desire and need to work responsibly and seriously with a transitional administration.

[Al-Hayik] Otherwise, the process will be delayed until a new team is formed?

['Ashrawi] There certainly will be an hiatus, during which foreign issues will not concern the new administration. There also are technical and administrative hurdles until new teams study what has been achieved so far and form an accurate picture of the situation.

[Al-Hayik] A final question. You will resume the talks on 9 November. What will you discuss during these talks?

['Ashrawi] They will continue with what was discussed during the first half of this round of talks. We still are dealing with basic issues concerning human rights and outlining the bases and goals of the peace process. Through unofficial meetings, we can follow up on such issues as the concept of the interim self-government authority, land and water, and jurisdiction. We must find out how far Israel is prepared to go in this process through practical steps in the areas of human rights and its commitment to these demands. We will work to bring about a change or opening in Israel's stand to achieve a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Notes Consequences of Recognizing Jerusalem

NC041222592 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by MBC correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi in Washington on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] For the record, we have to admit that the role of President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker was distinguished and important in shaping, stimulating, and maintaining the peace process. However, if we are going to talk about supervision or intervention, there has been no direct intervention.

We believe that some progress can be made during the transition period. Clinton would not want to inherit a stumbling peace process, but a successful one. It is known in political circles here that the peace process is a winning, not a losing card.

[Fahmi] Are you worried about a bias of a Clinton administration toward Israel?

['Ashrawi] There is no basic fear. We would not say that we are afraid of a change in U.S. policy. We should, however, try to change U.S. policy for the better. Still, the final decision, or the formation of a clear-cut U.S. policy, will have to wait until the new secretary of state is appointed and until the team of experts who will shape that policy is formed. Naturally, if the new secretary of state is biased, it would affect the peace process and U.S. foreign policy. This is something the United States cannot readily stomach, because any radical change in U.S. foreign policy that antagonizes the Arabs would, in my opinion, also affect the U.S. economy. The Americans are aware of these types of issues.

[Fahmi] What would be the Palestinian negotiator's reaction if the new administration transfers the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem?

['Ashrawi] This would be a serious and a basic change in U.S. policy. As you know, the U.S. declared policy is in line with UN Resolution 181. The United States does not recognize the annexation of the two sections of Jerusalem and sees Jerusalem as a separate issue and one of special status insofar as international law and the U.S. political position is concerned. If he did that, he would not just be interfering in a direct and biased way in the domestic political affairs of the Middle East, but also contradicting U.S. policy and violating international law and legitimacy. This would have grave consequences, of course.

Al-Husayni Sees No Change in U.S. Policy

LD0411185892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Brother Faysal al-Husayni has ruled out any change in U.S. policy toward the peace process during the term in office of President-elect Bill Clinton, saying that he expects the U.S. Administration to continue what was started by the previous administration. In a statement to the press before leaving Amman for Tunis, al-Husayni said: We believe that U.S. policy on the Middle East is the policy of the United States as a state and not that of any particular administration.

Al-Husayni added that he thinks the Palestinians have entered a period of waiting and anticipation, and that they will endeavor to strengthen relations with the new U.S. Administration and open up new avenues of cooperation with it.

Clinton's Particpation in Peace Talks Urged

TA0411185492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the advisory committee to the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem on 4 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] How will Clinton's victory affect the regional peace process?

[Abu-Zayyad] The peace process will definitely continue, and U.S. efforts will continue toward achieving peace. We expect, hope, or wish a more active role from President Clinton because any results from the political process hinge on the extent of the participation of the U.S. President personally in this process. You may recall that Carter confined Begin and al-Sadat to Camp David and pressured them until they managed to agree. The political process might achieve results if a U.S. President were to become involved personally.

[Ben-Menahem] Some Palestinians say that Clinton's policy will be more supportive of Israel than Bush's.

[Abu-Zayyad] I have not heard anyone from the Palestinian leadership make this remark. Clinton made some campaign statements which some interpreted as pro-Israel. I feel that anything any nominee says during the campaign is merely election propaganda said in an attempt to reach the White House. Any statement Clinton made during the campaign is part of that campaign. Judgment on Clinton should be made on the basis of what he says and does when he enters the White House. I would like to reaffirm that the Palestinians did not wager on Bush and were not stricken with grief or disappointment because Bush did not win. We are convinced that there are U.S. interests and that in supporting the political process the United States wants to achieve and protect its interests in the region.

PLO Official Sees Peace Talks Continuing

LD0411152892 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Mr. 'Abdallah al-Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, gave the Palestinian position regarding Bill Clinton's victory. He said that he believed that the Middle East process would continue on the same path without any change.

Al-Hurani said in a statement to TAP today, following the victory of Democrat Bill Clinton in the American presidential elections, that the peace negotiations would not stop, indicating that the new president would try to acquaint himself, in a short period of time, with the files of the negotiations, which had stopped prior to the American elections. He indicated that the American position on the Palestinian issue is not governed by a mere change of persons, but it is a general system related to the U.S. constitutional institutions in general.

It is worth recalling that the results of the American presidential elections will be one of the topics of the meetings of the Palestinian leadership that are expected to start later today to assess the peace negotiations, which began 30 October 1991 in Madrid under the cosponsorship of the United States and Russia.

'Abd-Rabbuh Comments

NC0411134692 Paris AFP in English 1315 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Report by Eric Wishart]

[Excerpts] Nicosia, Nov 4 (AFP) - Iraqis danced in the streets Wednesday to celebrate the downfall of "public enemy number one" George Bush, while Bill Clinton's election received mixed reviews from Israel and its Arab peace talks partners. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the PLO's information chief, hoped Clinton's election would give "greater impetus" to the peace process.

The election result revealed "the American people's desire for change and we (the PLO) hope it will also result in a change in the situation in the Middle East," he told AFP in Tunis.

Regarding Clinton's pro-Israeli comments, 'Abd-Rabbuh said the Palestine Liberation Organisation doubted that the "fundamental interests of the United States have changed." [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah Reacts

JN0411125292 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has stated that Bush's departure after Shamir's departure opens the door for the departure of the Madrid conditions, which deprived the Palestinian people of their rights.

Hawatimah added: We hope that President Clinton will be a genuine democratic president in words and deeds and respects international legitimacy and the right of small nations to self-determination.

No Difference Seen Between Bush, Clinton

LD0411225292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, as we realize that U.S. strategic policy does not usually change with a change of President in the White House, we also realize that the character of the U.S. presidency does not worry or delight only Americans. In fact its impact extends to the four corners of the earth. Although in the long run the American people are the ones who choose their President, the nations and states of the world believe that the policy of the new President, who is expected to sit at the helm in the White House and at the summit of the international pyramid, is not only a matter of concern to American voters; it is a matter that that extends far, by necessity, to the various parts of the world.

The fact is that this is the position. It is a fact of life, rightly or wrongly. It reflects a given situation. The most prominent of its outlines for example, is the new world order, which was championed by George Bush, who was defeated yesterday.

There is no doubt that as we are part of this world, our political analysts and experts were dutybound to sift the facts and find out who is the better of the two contestants, Bush or Clinton.

After the victory of the Democrat Bill Clinton over the Republican Bush, can we expect good from the new victor? To us, in any event, there is no difference between them. This Republican who was defeated yesterday was not stingy in his economic, political, and military support for Israel. He assembled the biggest international alliance, under his leadership against Iraq. The Madrid conference came into being by his own hands. This conference has not yet achieved anything except to make our Palestinian issue more complex and push it toward a dead end. The victorious Democrat Clinton only yesterday told the Saudi AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he will regard the Arab-Israeli conflict as a threat to the existence of Israel. He pledged to redouble all-round strategic support for Israel as soon as he wins the election.

Both of them subscribe to a firm belief and constant practice of U.S. strategic policy: a clear alignment in favor of Israel. The departure of Bush from the White House and the entry of the other will not mean to us a change in U.S. policy from yesterday to today.

What we really have to do here is to confront U.S. strategic policy with a unified Arab stand and with a protective Arab will which supports our Palestinian cause and our Arab issues in general. Will we do this, or are we going to repeat our habit of just standing by and watching who enters and who leaves the invincible White House in the hope that some change might take place by some miracle? In international politics there are no miracles, only the abilities of the peoples and their unified potentials.

Clinton Seen As No More Sympathetic

LD0411205692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, yesterday, the American voters went to the polls to vote and proclaim the victory of Democratic candidate Bill Clinton. All states and nations of the world had focused their attention on this international event, which brought joy to some and annoyance to others. However, our Arab world was in a state of division. Some wanted Bush to succeed because his continuing in office would mean the continuation of the peace process which began during his term. They also thought that to give Bush a second term would give him the chance to apply pressure on Israel and make it show greater flexibility in the negotiations.

Those who supported Clinton did not do so because he would be better or more sympathetic toward their problems, but because of the pain which many Arabs felt over the destruction and humiliation Bush meted out on the Iraqi people. These people bitterly remember his part in mustering the forces of 30 states to strike Iraq and destroy Iraq's military power. What made this still more painful was that during his election campaign Bush boasted about and took pride in what his hands had done to Iraq and his continuation of moves for the blockade and starvation of this noble Arab people.

Thus, the question is not one of preference. We must not rejoice much over the victory of Clinton in these elections. The Arabs will not obtain rights and justice from the U.S. Presidency. Although we do not deny the role America enjoys in the world, U.S. foreign policy is decided by the establishment, not by personalities. If it is to be expected that Clinton may differ from Bush in

tackling the issues, in the end he is governed by the establishment, the centers of pressure, and the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Clinton's election victory is not at all related to U.S. foreign policy. The prominent issues during the election campaign were the economic downturn, the rise in unemployment, and the fears of the American people over the future of the economy. Millions of American citizens have been complaining against the state of affairs, the drop in income, and the closure of many industrial organizations. All of them blame Bush and his administration for this recession.

One must bear in mind that the world economic situation has been suffering from recession and instability. Great changes have taken place in the world. The world economic situation requires rearrangement. East Europe collapsed, and the two Germanys reunited. There is something wrong in the attempts to bring about European economic unity. Japan also is suffering from economic weakness and a decline in growth.

Thus, while we wait to see if Clinton's victory will have a positive impact on foreign policy, the American people are only concerned about their own domestic and economic affairs. These things take priority. There is an American saying that the citizen's vote is tied to his wallet and depends on which of the two candidates can increase his income and fill his wallet with dollars. Thus, the economy and job opportunities are the first concern of the American citizen.

PLO Message to Clinton on 15 Oct Reported

NC0511121192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0729 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Manama, 5 Nov (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have revealed that the Palestinian leadership sent a message to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton on 15 October, before the elections.

In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM, the Palestinian sources said that the Palestinian leadership stressed in its message to Clinton the need to maintain the U.S. pledges as stipulated in the letter of assurances, particularly on the issues of the transfer of authority, settlement, the status of Jerusalem, the elections, and the final phase.

The leadership stressed the PLO's willingness to listen to all Israeli security concerns. It also noted that the notion of a tripartite confederation comprising Jordan, Israel, and Palestine is not rejected in principle and is worth discussing at the proper time.

Citing the paper, the GULF NEWS AGENCY said that the Palestinian leadership asked in its message to Clinton for the restoration of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

Al-Husayni Urges Continued Participation in Talks

TA0411154492 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 4 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] Jerusalem—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, emphasized the need for continued Palestinian participation in the talks until agreement is reached over the transitional phase. In a statement to AL-FAJR before leaving yesterday morning for Amman and then Tunisia, he said that the aim of the talks is to reach agreement on transferring as much authority as possible to the Palestinian people through the transitional phase, leading ultimately to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Al-Husayni will take part in the assessment meetings that the Palestinian leadership is to hold tomorrow, with the participation of some members of the Palestinian delegation to the talks as well as leaders of factions opposed to the peace process. The leadership will discuss the passage of one year of negotiations and the results of the first part of the seventh round.

Al-Husayni reviewed what has been achieved in one year of talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis, pointing to progress in many fields. He said: "We enhanced the chances of public PLO participation in the talks after Israel tried to exclude it completely. Now we are trying to bring about official PLO participation in the talks. Everyone knows now that the PLO directs the delegation just as the Israeli Government directs its own delegation."

Al-Husayni added: "Despite the Likud Party's stance, the talks affirmed in principle that the Israelis cannot settle in Palestinian lands in the way that they wish to. Rabin was forced to talk about political and security settlements, and now he is raising the security, not the historic, issue. We are ready to discuss the security issue and prove to Rabin that he does not need those lands for security."

Al-Husayni explained that the Palestinian delegation succeeded in breaking the ban imposed on diaspora Palestinians for participating in the talks. Now they are taking part in the multilateral talks, "and this proves that Israel is negotiating with the people and not with Palestinians living in a limited geographical area." Al-Husayni noted: "We still have the battle of Jerusalem and the issue of Palestinian representation from Jerusalem ahead of us. We shall insist on achieving this in the future with the aim of representing Jerusalem in the multilateral talks."

The head of the Palestinian team expressed his opposition to any referendum right now on the negotiations and whether they should continue; he noted that a referendum should be held only when the negotiations achieve results. "Then, the public will have to decide whether to accept what we achieved."

On reports indicating progress in the Syrian-Israeli and Jordanian-Israeli tracks, al-Husayni said: "At this stage it is natural for progress to be made in some of the tracks, but the important thing is that when a final solution is reached it should be with the agreement of all the parties. No party should work out separate agreements to enter the phase of lasting peace or the phase of normalization."

Al-Husayni explained that continuous Palestinian contacts are underway with the Arab parties to ensure coordination and affirm the linkage between the stages of a settlement. Al-Husayni noted that agreement by Jordan and Israel over a draft agenda is progress on the negotiating level, but this does not mean that a final agreement or a separate settlement has been reached. "As long as matters do not reach the stage of a separate settlement, perhaps progress on one of the tracks will contribute to progress on other tracks."

Al-Husayni said that the issue of the refugees on the Palestinian delegation's agenda "concerns those Palestinians who left in 1967, or the displaced, and the need to repatriate them to the West Bank and Gaza Strip where they lived before the Israeli occupation. As for a solution to the refugee problem, that will only be discussed through Resolution 194. It cannot be discussed in the absence of the Palestinian side."

'Abd-al-Shafi Analyzes 1st Year of Talks

PM0311122492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Oct 92 p 6

[Article by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief Palestinian delegate to the peace negotiations: "Transitional Government Without Authority on Ground Futile"]

[Text] At this time last year the Palestinians started a new phase in their struggle for the sake of their natural and legitimate rights, namely by agreeing to participate in the peace process.

We went to Madrid a year ago and continued the negotiations in the rounds that followed, full of seriousness and truthfulness. We entered the negotiations with open minds and hearts, hoping to achieve a just peace in the region and resolve the Palestinian-Israeli dispute. Our participation was and is based on the invitation letter's stipulation that the authority for the peace process is Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

After overcoming the procedural difficulties that emerged at the beginning, we moved toward the submission of plans defining views concerning the transitional rule phase. Difficulties emerged between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. They revolved around the two sides' conflicting demands with regard to the Palestinian transitional government's powers and the way it should be established. For our part, we stressed the need to hold free general elections in the Palestinian areas as a basis that would—with other factors—guarantee the continuation of the peace process reasonably during the transitional phase without affecting the second phase, which includes holding negotiations to determine the final status of the occupied territories.

For our part, we demanded preparatory steps from the Israeli side, including the following:

—To completely halt settlement building in the occupied territories, including east Jerusalem.

—To accept that the elected Palestinian council, which will be the pillar of the transitional government, is entitled to legislate.

These demands were the main source of difficulty. And perhaps right from the first round to the sixth we continued to revolve around the content of these demands. The Israeli proposals used to be made in various formulas, whether in the days of Yitzhaq Shamir or in Yitzhaq Rabin's era. During the entire sixth round the Israelis avoided the territory question completely—which showed the truth about the contradiction in the concept of the authority for peace represented in Resolution 242, which we regarded as an authority for the peace process as a whole. Our stance was and still is that it applies to the final phase and the transitional phase as well. This is clear from the invitation letter.

But the Israeli side does not approve of this interpretation and believes that Resolution 242 is an authority for the final phase only—which is really incompatible with logic. The Israeli side's reliance in its position on the view that the invitation letter said that the negotiations should be held in the final phase to determine the final status in accordance with Resolution 242 and 338 does not mean that Resolution 242 is not also an authority for the transitional phase. If that were so, what is then the authority for the transitional phase? Has it been left without an authority?

What is very clear is that Israel wants in this way to eclipse the territory issue. And it does not want to recognize the existence of a geographical framework for the Palestinian transitional government. Nor does it want to talk about the territories, especially the territories it usurped and of which it still has the freedom to dispose and on which it still has the freedom to impose a new reality.

In addition to this fundamental issue in Palestinian-Israeli differences there is also the issue related to the elected Palestinian council's right to legislate. Israel rejects that, believing that this right is a prelude to an independent state—which is also incorrect. This is because there is more than one aspect in the Palestinian proposal indicating that it does not mean an independent state now, because in the transitional phase there will be Israeli forces in areas to be agreed on between us. Many aspects of security issues will be in Israel's hands during the transitional phase. The same applies to foreign affairs and other matters whose continuance in the

Israeli authorities' hands is clearly in conflict with the fundamentals of an independent Palestinian states.

Furthermore, the territory issue is very important, since a Palestinian transitional government cannot look after citizens' interests without having authority on the ground. But for us to separate inhabitants and the territory is absolutely unreasonable and illogical. As we are not alarmed at Israel's insistence on saying that Resolution 242 is the authority for the final phase, we also want the same authority to be applied to the transitional phase and not to leave matters to Israel's discretion. And it must not be forgotten here that, according to the text of the invitation letter, no single party can take any measures that could affect the outcome of the transitional phase negotiations. And Israel's insistence on retaining and disposing of the land is the thing that could affect the outcome of the final negotiations most. This is because it (Israel) continues to create new realities on the ground.

I find myself prompted to point out here that we of the Palestinian side have since the first day of the peace process prepared ourselves for a long road which requires patience. It was clear to us that we were taking part in a peace process which the entire world is watching with great interest. It was also clear to us that the world cannot imagine us missing this peace opportunity. This is why we are eager to make it a success and not to be accused of aborting it or withdrawing from it merely because of impatience and inability to negotiate.

I also point to the fact that the sponsors of the conference have still not taken stands on the dilemma which we are facing now. The U.S. sponsor is busy with the presidential elections, which will end in the middle of the current seventh round. We are looking forward to a fair and effective role from this sponsor. And the Israeli position—to judge in accordance with the logic of farsightedness—appears to be completely unreasonable. This is because this position is in many respects not in line with the interests of the Jewish generations in the region. For our part, we are eager to make every effort to extricate ourselves from the dilemma. Our aim is to advance toward a just solution to the Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

I feel that Yitzhaq Rabin and his government want to reach an agreement. This is an important difference which distinguishes them from Shamir's era. But so far they have not proposed distinctive and crucial matters. They are talking about intermediate or secondary matters. However, we register in their favor their agreement to the elections principle.

With regard to the Palestinian front, and in connection with some people's opposition to the peace process, it can be said that the reason for the opposition lies in the intransigent Israeli conditions and our participation in this peace process on the basis of the Israeli conditions. However, in my view, there were conditions which did not allow us to stay outside the peace process. There were also differing views among Palestinian ranks with regard to whether or not to participate in the peace process—which is natural. The Palestinian opposition was responsible, and we were not annoyed by this. But the faltering of the negotiations, Israel's continuation of settlement building measures, and the daily repression in the occupied territories... all this reduced the credibility of the peace process. As a result, opposition grew and some irresponsible positions were adopted, accusing the delegation of making concessions—which is absolutely untrue. This is in addition to the allegation that the the delegation was moving toward offering concessions—which is also an untrue allegation.

I, of course, realize the frustration resulting among the masses because of the lack of progress. I have realized this danger from the outset. After we returned from Madrid (last year) the first thing we told the people in the occupied territories was that there was no need to celebrate and rejoice now; the road is still long and we can promise you nothing. We told them this because we know the nature of the things on which we have embarked. Anyhow, despite the objections raised, it remains that I am not annoyed at the developments which the year of negotiations—if I may put it like this—has witnessed. In fact in my meetings with people, whether in the occupied territories or with the Palestinians of various inclinations outside the occupied territories, I do not feel embarrassed to talk with them openly in a truthful and free dialogue. This is because in the end Palestinian welfare is the same, the Palestinian concern is the same, the destiny is the same, and so there is no reason to disagree or fight over anything. The Palestinian delegation is proceeding from its responsibility and playing its role in adhering to Palestinian demands.

One extremely important point remains. It is related to coordination among the Arab delegations. Over a year of negotiations Arab coordination has proceeded very well. I emphasized this openly a few days ago in my address to the Palestine National Council in Tunis.

From the outset, proceeding from the real understanding of the peace process in the region, we have sought to reactivate coordination in Arab positions, since the peace process is indivisible. And as the unity of the Arab position is very important for our success in the peace process, we continue to meet and coordinate our positions. And I believe that driving a wedge between the Arab delegations is in the interests of no one except Israel. Everyone is aware of this fact. I have absolute confidence in our Arab brothers, and I am not worried in this connection.

A final note: We have since the Madrid conference and until this moment exerted sincere efforts on the road to the achievement of a just peaceful solution, and it is God who bestows success.

Egypt

Mubarak Cables Clinton, Urges Peace Efforts

NC0411123592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following cable of congratulations to Bill Clinton on his election as U.S. President for a four-year term:

I am pleased to send you the most sincere and heartfelt congratulations on your election as U.S. President at this important and historic juncture, which is witnessing radical and deep changes on the various regional and international levels.

I am confident that your friendly country will continue to play an active and effective role in consolidating world peace, strengthening international cooperation, making the world more secure, stable, and just, and enabling mankind to face the grave challenges confronting its march at this delicate phase in history.

We look forward to deepening the ties of amity and friendship between your country and the Arab nation's peoples and to giving strong momentum to the ongoing efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East—efforts in which several U.S. presidents have played prominent and key roles, notably your predecessor President George Bush. I will be pleased to work together to consolidate friendship and understanding between our two countries and peoples, develop cooperation between North and South, and eliminate the causes of tension and violence in all parts of the world.

My best wishes of success to you in your great task, and I wish the friendly American people continued success and progress.

Mubarak Sends 'Cable of Appreciation' to Bush

NC0411130692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a cable of appreciation to U.S. President George Bush. The text of the cable is as follows:

Dear friend, President George Bush:

It pleases me to express to you again our deep appreciation of the great role you have played during your term in office to build a foundation for world peace, eliminate the causes of struggle and tension, and consolidate cooperation and coexistence among the various countries and peoples. The Middle East peoples will remember you for your sincere and diligent efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to enable its countries to divert their energy toward overcoming the challenges facing their march now and in future.

The Egyptian people will remember you with every appreciation and gratitude for the role you have played in deepening their friendship and amity with the people of the United States and for contributing tangibly to an existing relationship of mutual cooperation and understanding at this delicate stage, when the global community is turning a new page in its rich history and striding toward wider horizons of cooperation and sense of unity of purpose. You know I had much pleasure in cooperating with you throughout your term in office, which was laden with achievements and developments. It pleases me that we will continue to cooperate in the weeks ahead. I will always cherish your friendship and amity. Please accept my best wishes for your health and happiness.

Commentary Views Clinton Victory, U.S. Policy

NC0411162792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Nov 92

['Atif 'Umar commentary: "Egypt and the Arabs in Light of the Outcome of the U.S. Presidential Elections"]

[Text] Democratic candidate Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential elections was not an unexpected surprise; the fact that it was a landslide victory, however, was. Clinton is repeating what happened between the Democrats and Republicans 12 years ago when former Republican President Ronald Reagan defeated his Democratic rival, then-President Jimmy Carter, when the Democrats lost the White House.

The U.S. elections demonstrate that the U.S. voter is looking for fresh economic dynamism to emerge from the economic stagnation and recession currently afflicting the United States, provided, that is, that taxes will not increase. In addition, there are other very important issues for which the current U.S. Administration was sternly criticized, which eventually led to its defeat. One of these issues is education policy, which is not coping with rapid development in other countries. These were the important issues in the U.S. elections, which gave such a landslide victory to the Democrats. This happened even though the American people, both Republicans and Democrats, are aware that during President Bush's term, the United States achieved its greatest foreign political victories ever. History will register that President Bush was the star of the international changes that made his country the world's only superpower following the collapse of its traditional rival and the demise of the Marxist system with the fall of its symbol, the Soviet Union.

We have to deal with the change brought about by the election and the return of the Democrats to the helm. We would like to assert that there are foundations and constants that govern relations between Egypt and the Arab people and all U.S. administrations. These foundations and constants are:

1. Egyptian-U.S. relations have never been affected by the party or president that rules the United States.

Cairo's and Washington's policies are characterized by understanding and balanced relations based on common interests and mutual respect. Egypt is important and respected in the eyes of all U.S. administrations. Therefore, and according to a statement by the U.S. ambassador in Cairo following the outcome, there will be no change in Egyptian-U.S. relations. He stressed that U.S. policy on Egypt is firm and that relations are growing toward further cooperation under the wise policies of President Mubarak in his relations with all countries, especially the United States.

2. In its dealing with the Middle East peace issue, the United States bases its policy on a strategy that supports UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. All U.S. administrations consider it inadmissible to annex land by force and stress the need to reach a permanent, stable, and just peace in the Middle East. All believe that a peace should be based on the rights of all countries and peoples of the region and on coexistence and cooperation. In addition, they all agree that regional security and stability is an indivisible part of world stability.

3. The Democrats and Republicans have the same view of the Middle East peace issue. As is known, huge strides were made in the Arab-Israeli conflict during former Democratic President Jimmy Carter's era. The Carter administration is credited with helping in the signing of the Camp David Accords in 1979. It was the first step in the Arab-Israeli peace process, which has continued to the current bilateral negotiations in Washington and the multilateral negotiations, which aim to reach a comprehensive and stable peace in the Middle East. This confirms that the Democrats and Republicans have similar positions on the Middle East peace issue. The achievements made during Bush's administration will continue during Clinton's in response to U.S. public opinion, which supports this trend.

4. The U.S. position on the Gulf region is firm and based on a strategy that all U.S. administrations have approved and dealt with since the forties, a strategy based on supporting and securing protection and stability in this region. The Bush administration demonstrated this position when it supported the State of Kuwait against the Iraqi aggression in August 1990, despite the fact that ties between Washington and Baghdad were normal at the time.

Therefore, it is expected, or rather, inevitable, that the current U.S. policy towards the Iraqi regime, which still refuses to deal with the international community, will continue. The U.S. Administration, backed by all peoples of the world, rejects terrorism, the violation of human rights, and the intimidation of neighboring peoples that the Iraqi regime continues to practice.

There is no doubt that the theme of the election outcome is that there are no differences between the Democrats and Republicans in their approach to U.S. foreign policy. What concerns us as Arabs is that Washington maintain its drive on the peace process on the premise that the new Democratic administration under Bill Clinton can add to President Bush's achievement.

Government-Owned Dailies Analyze Clinton Victory

NC0511082692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR agree in their editorials today that Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential elections has shown the extent of unity in the Democratic Party ranks compared to the confusion and divisions in the Republican camp.

AL-AHRAM says that the U.S. voter has perceived that the Republicans have performed their task and must leave now that the United States has won the cold war and ended the concept of the evil communist empire. The U.S. voter also realizes that new policies are needed for the dawning era with its new requirements and needs at the domestic and foreign levels.

The paper adds: Clinton has succeeded in exploiting the current economic crisis and also in realizing the extent of change in the Americans' moods and needs. He therefore has attracted the votes of the young, who are looking for new jobs; women, who are demanding more rights; the middle class, which has been crushed by the economic crisis, stagnation, and high taxes; and poor whites from the north and south and blacks, the backbone of the Democratic Party.

AL-AHRAM continues: Therefore, the change has come primarily in response to urgent domestic needs. It also is a reflection of international changes that have placed the United States in an uncompetitive position regarding other giant economic blocs, namely Europe and Japan. Therefore, this change most certainly will affect U.S. relations with the outside world.

For its part, AL-AKHBAR says that Clinton's victory was not a surprise. It says: This is the first time that public opinion polls have proved accurate. These polls constantly gave the Democratic candidate a substantial lead over Bush in popularity from the start of the campaign and until the last few days before election day.

The paper adds: No one can deny President Bush's expertise in foreign policy in view of the vast experience gained during his tenure as CIA director and then as former President Reagan's number two. He stressed this expertise during his presidency, but what U.S. voters primarily were concerned about was the economic situation, which directly affects their own lives.

AL-AKHBAR continues: It perhaps is unfortunate for Bush that his country had to experience four severe economic crises and problems, especially the huge trade deficit, which set new records during his term. The great change in the international arena that followed the

collapse of the Soviet Union and the demise of the specter of the cold war did nothing to endear President Bush to the U.S. voter.

Concluding its editorial, the paper stresses the fact that the people's desire for change has played a principal role in the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections. It expresses hope that the stand on restoring peace to the Middle East region started by Bush will continue.

Results of Local Council Elections Announced

NC0411220792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The outcome of the local council elections in Cairo Governorate was announced today. The National Democratic Party [NDP] tickets won in all constituencies except the following ones: Al-Tibbin and Hulwan, where the Labor Party ticket won on the level of the district and governorate councils; Al-Sahil, where there will be a runoff between the NDP and Wafd Party tickets at the govenorate level; 'Ayn Shams, where there will be a runoff between the NDP and the Labor Party at the governorate level; and Al-Hada'iq, where there will be a runoff at the governate and district levels between the NDP and the Labor Party.

Concerning the individual seats, NDP candidates carried all Cairo districts execpt al-Muski, won by the Labor Party, and Heliopolis, where elections have been postponed.

In al-Jizah Govenorate, the NDP won a majority of seats and party tickets. Eighty of its 107 tickets won in that governorate.

The rest of the election results will come out today.

The runoff for Imbabah subdistrict will take place on 10 November.

In al-Sharqiyah Governorate, all the NDP tickets won in 13 subdistricts. The vote count for the town of Hihya is continuing.

In the al-Bahr al-Ahmar Governorate, the NDP ticket won in the al-Ghardaqah, al-Qusayr, and Ra's Gharib constituencies. The NDP also won the individual seat at the governorate level in al-Ghardaqah and Safajah.

In Port Said Governorate, the NDP tickets won in the al-Dawahi constituency at the governorate and district levels. The NDP also won the individual seat in that constituency. Runoff elections will be held in four constituencies: Sharq, Gharb, Munakh, and Port Fu'ad.

In Aswan Governorate, the NDP won the individual seats for the village of Abu-al-Rish Bahari and Bandar Aswan constiuencies. The NDP won the individual seat at the governorate level in Kawm Umbu district, and Idfu constiuencies. The Wafd Party won the individual seat at the village level in the same [not further specified] constituency and in Kawm Umbu.

The NDP won the individual seat at the Local Council of Aswan subdistrict. In the city of Daraw, the NDP won the individual seat of the Local Council of the governorate and also the individual seat of the Local Council of the village of al-Ja'afirah.

In the al-Buhayrah Governorate, the Labor Party ticket won the individual seat in the Abu al-Matamir subdistrict Local Council. The Labor Party ticket also won Abu al-Matimir and the villages of Zawiyat Saqr Kawm al-Faraj.

In the al-Dilinjat subdistrict, the NDP won the individual seat of the governorate Local Council and the individual seat of the governorate Local Council.

The NDP won the elections in the village of al-Wafa'iyah and in the villages of (?Kawm damran) and al-Misin. The NDP won the individual seat in the al-Dilinjat and the individual seat of the city's Local Council.

In Kafr al-Dawwar, the NDP won the individual seat of the governorate and the subdistrict and the NDP ticket won the city's seat.

In al-Rahmaniyah, the Labor Party ticket won the seats of the city and the subdistrict.

The NDP won in the Ityay al-Barud's Governorate [as heard] city, and the individual seat.

In the al-Gharbiyah Governorate, the NDP won the city's Local Council and the Tanta subdistrict. The NDP also won the (?Qranshu) village Local Council.

Commander Explains Plans To Develop Air Force

NC0411143692 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 Oct 92 p 6

[Report by Jamal Kamal]

[Excerpts] Over 150 F-16, Mirage, Mirage 2000, and Phantom fighter planes will participate in an Air Force exercise with live ammunition on Sunday [1 November]. The exercise is meant to show our Air Force's development on its 60th anniversary.

The drill, which will take place at the Bilbays Air Base, will be attended by Defense Minister General Husayn Tantawi, Chief of Staff Salah Halabi, Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Ahmad Nasr, and top Air Force commanders.

In a news conference, Lt. Gen. Ahmad Nasr said the Armed Forces are carrying on with the plan to develop the Air Force, a plan that will continue until 2010. He said the plan is well thought of and takes into consideration threats to Egypt and the country's role in the region.

He said the plan provides for acquiring the most advanced products of the international arms arsenals, developing and maintaining existing planes, and

replacing planes taken out of active service. He pointed out that the state is securing the necessary allocations to develop the Air Force.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Lt. Gen. Nasr said a deal involving a fourth batch of U.S. F-16C planes has been signed. He said the planes are considered the most advanced American fighters, with a body, engine, shape, and weaponry different from all other F-16 fighters. [passage omitted]

The Air Force commander said the Air Force has concluded an integral deal to purchase U.S. Apache helicopters with their modern weapons. They will be commissioned in 1994. Another contract to purchase many other pieces of modern navigation equipment, such as the low-altitude night vision Lantern, has been concluded. This will boost our fighters' combat capabilities, he added.

He said the Air Force, in cooperation with the Naval Force, is now studying reequipping Sea King antisubmarine helicopters with sensor technology. [passage omitted]

Asked whether Egypt will receive another Mirage 2000 deal after signing the military debt rescheduling protocol with France, Nasr said we hope so, because these planes have high combat ability. [passage omitted]

Correction to Mubarak Interview on World Issues

NC0411182892

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Mubarak Interviewed on World, National Issues," published in the 4 November NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT, page 9:

Page 9, first column, second paragraph, second sentence, make read: ...received to date is not enough to address... (supplying missing word "not")

Bahrain

Amir, Prime Minister Congratulate Clinton

JN0411143592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Manama, 4 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has sent a congratulatory cable to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton on his victory in the U.S. presidential elections. In his cable, the amir of Bahrain noted the great confidence expressed in Clinton by the American people. This confidence, the cable adds, is represented by his election as the new president of the United States. The amir wished Clinton success in his new post and expressed his hope that the existing bilateral relations of friendship and the two nations will witness continued progress and prosperity.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, also sent a congratulatory cable to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton on his victory in the U.S. elections, and on the great confidence expressed by the American people. The Bahraini prime minister added that this confidence is represented by his election as the new president of the United States. His highness wished the new U.S. president success in his new post.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Defense Forces, also sent a congratulatory cable to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton. In his cable, the Bahraini heir apparent congratulated Clinton on his victory in the elections, wishing him success in his new post in the interest of the American people.

Kuwait

Amir Thanks Bush for 'Decisive' Stand on Invasion

LD0511111692 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, sent a message to U.S. President George Bush this morning expressing in the name of the people of Kuwait the gratitude and appreciation which Kuwait—people and leadership—harbors for the decisive historic positions taken by the United States and the American people during his presidency, from the start of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait until its liberation.

Shaykh Jabir stressed that these positions will be remembered by the people of Kuwait, and that Kuwait will continue to harbor friendship and appreciation for his person. Also the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will continue to grow stronger and develop for their mutual good.

Foreign Ministry Hails Results of U.S. Election

LD0411150092 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Nov (KUNA)—An official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry commented today on the results of the U.S. presidential elections saying that Kuwait welcomes the results of these elections, which came as an expression of the will of the friendly American people, and it expresses its conviction in the continuity and development of the firm existing relations between the United States and the State of Kuwait in realizing the interests of both countries and their friendly peoples' interests.

In his statement to KUNA, the source also expressed Kuwait's confidence that the positive and constructive role played by the United States in the establishment of peace and justice and in cementing the pillars of the new international order will continue in promoting good fortune and the aspirations of humanity in a world where security, justice, stability, and prosperity prevail.

Official Views Prospects for Foreign Policy

LD3110094992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Oct 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 30 Oct (KUNA)—Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Kuwaiti under secretary for foreign affairs, has said that the numerous changes which have taken place in the world and the disaster which befell Kuwaiti as a result of the Iraqi occupation "have led us to reconsider our policies and stances in order to adapt them to the new developments and to protect our people and the region as a whole."

In an interview with the AL-KUWAYT magazine, published by the Information Ministry, in its edition of tomorrow, Saturday, he indicated that Kuwait's foreign policy after the liberation took into account the geopolitics of the region in which Kuwait is situated. This led the country to adopt a policy reconciling the interests of Kuwait itself with the security and stability of the region in general, he stated.

He added that Kuwait also took into account the fact that the world had entered a stage of economic conflict rather than political conflict. "Human ideas are now revolving around economic affairs, civil liberties, and development as a basis and premise," he said.

Regarding the subject of security agreements and the Damascus Declaration, al-Shahin said: "There will be a pressing need for such agreements so long as the situation in the region remains unstable because of the presence of the Iraqi regime. However, as soon as security is achieved for everyone, we will have to start laying down new regional foundations. These foundations should be built on mutual respect and an endeavor to live in a world based on cooperation in the interest of all".

He added: "We are indebted to those who restored our freedom. Cooperation with the allies is undoubtedly linked to temporary circumstances which will not last for ever, but one of the responsibilities of the government is to have an advanced vision with which to ensure the necessary protection for its people and enable them to live in safety."

On the absence of an Iranian role in the Damascus Declaration, al-Shahin said the declaration concerns the Arabs and is under the umbrella of the Arab League. It is not directed against anyone; it constitutes a positive step "ahead of the Arab League and does not contravene the Charter; rather, it reinforces it." He pointed out that the Damascus Declaration still comprises a group of principles concerning economic, security, and cultural cooperation which need special protocols. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary said that when democracy and freedom prevail in Iraq the Iraqi people will put development priorities at the forefront of their concerns and preoccupations. The individual and the group will receive their due respect; consequently, the neighbor will be respected. Bridges based on trust and sovereignty will be restored, and the region will turn toward constructing itself. However, if the Iraqis were to have another military regime or continue the same regime then the catastrophe will remain, with all its ugly shadows. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Views Gulf Tour

LD0311121292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0706 GMT 3 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait [dateline as received]—Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has praised the profound eagerness shown by the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states when he met with them [during recent Gulf tour) to bolster the GCC's march and strengthen the fraternal bonds among its members. In an exclusive statement to KUNA on his return from Saudi Arabia at the end of his three-day tour of the GCC member-states he said that he had conveyed messages to the leaders of these countries within the framework of the mediation undertaken by Kuwait to contain the border dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar. [passage omitted]

Oman

Sultan Cables Congratulations to Clinton

JN0411144192 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Nov 92

["Text" of congratulatory cable from Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to President-elect Bill Clinton on 4 November]

[Text] His Excellency Mr. Bill Clinton, President-elect of the United States, Washington:

On the occasion of your victory in the U.S. presidential elections, it pleases us to send to you our congratulations on the confidence the friendly American people have placed in you, wishing you success in your mission. We are confident that the strong ties linking our two countries will continue and develop in the interest of the two friendly peoples, and that the role being played by the United States to entrench justice and establish peace will maintain its positive momentum so that prosperity and stability may prevail throughout the world. Best greetings.

[Signed] Qabus Bin-Sa'id

Qatar

Amir Congratulates Clinton, Appreciates Bush's Efforts

JN0411142492 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Doha, 4 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has expressed his confidence that the new administration of President-elect Bill Clinton will work for reinforcing world peace and security, and entrench the bases of the new world order.

In a cable to President-elect Bill Clinton, the Qatari amir congratulated him on his victory in the U.S. presidential elections.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani also sent another cable to President George Bush expressing appreciation for the efforts he exerted, throughout his presidential term, to reinforce world security and stability.

Kuwaiti Official Brings Message on Border Dispute

LD0411235992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0941 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Doha, 4 Nov (KUNA)—Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, has concluded a short visit to Qatar, leaving today for the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on a mission connected with the delivery of messages on recent developments in the Gulf arena from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

Mr. al-Shahin had earlier delivered a message to Qatari Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad in connection with Kuwait's mediation efforts to solve the accidental border disagreement between the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar.

QNA said that the message is also connected with the existing fraternal relationships between Kuwait and Qatar and recent developments on the Gulf arena. It also

noted that Ahmad 'Abdullah al-Mahmud, Qatari Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Ahmad al-Rumi attended the meeting.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Congratulates President-Elect Clinton

LD0411183992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Jiddah, 4 Nov (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent the following message of congratulations to His Excellency Bill Clinton on the occasion of his election as president of the United States of America:

Your Excellency Bill Clinton, on the occasion of your election as president of the United States of America, it is my pleasure to send you, in my own name and on behalf of the people and Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, our sincere and amicable congratulations for the confidence that the friendly American people have put in you to lead them and achieve their best aspirations. We wish you all success in your responsibilities, of which you are worthy, toward your friendly country and toward international peace and security.

It is also my pleasure to emphasize on this occasion the close historical relations existing between our two friendly countries and their aspirations to achieve peace and justice, consolidate security and stability in the Middle East region and in all parts of the world, and realize prosperity and abundance for human society with fairness and on the basis of high values. Accept my most sincere greetings and consideration.

[Signed] Custodian of the two holy mosques, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Newspapers React to Clinton Win, Praise Bush

LD0511093192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0308 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 5 Nov (SPA)—On the results of the American presidential elections, the paper AL-MADINAH noted the victory of the young Democrat candidate Bill Clinton with a large majority in the U.S. presidential elections over his Republican rival President Bush, and said that he had thus brought back the Democrats to power after 13 years to be the first American president born after World War II.

The paper added that it is the foreign affairs part of American policies that interests us in the Arab world, particularly the political positions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict. Here we remain optimistic in the hope that the new U.S. Administration will give an impulse to the peace efforts laid down by former President George Bush. The paper stresses that the new president, Clinton, has pledged to do this, and it points out that the Democrats were the first to take the initiative in the peace process in 1979.

On the same subject, the paper AL-YAWM points out that despite the victory of American President-elect Bill Clinton in the opinion polls, and his preparations to enter the White House and assume power in the most powerful state of the world, all the states of the free world will not forget the firm political positions taken by President George Bush on the hot issues that used to prevail in the world. The paper further says that while saying goodbye to the past presidential era under President George Bush, the world hails with respect and esteem a personality who devoted himself to realizing peace and spreading it between states and peoples, and to protecting, strengthening, and implementing international resolutions. The paper concludes its editorial saying that while welcoming the new man at the White House, the world hopes that the constants followed by American President George Bush will be maintained, and it affirms that maintaining these constants means continuing to spread the causes of peace, security, and justice between the peoples and states of the world. [passage omitted]

The paper AL-RIYAD in its editorial dealt with the results of the U.S. presidential elections and the victory of the Democrat candidate Bill Clinton. It said that President Bush has strived to realize peace in the Middle East, and observers fear an alternative who would be a maneuverer or a sympathizer with Israel. Even though things have become easier by the fact that the change of American policy in the region to another direction is now governed by the nature of interests before recourse to the old traditional alliances, despite this one cannot affirm surely that Clinton will change the constants of American policy unless that would be dictated by a change in circumstances or the occurrence of extraordinary events in the region. At the international level, the paper adds, there are optimists and pessimists, all the more since the new American president has frankly emphasized the interests of his country, and to Europe and Japan this means an alteration of the balance of trade exchanges.

On American foreign policy in the new era, the paper says it is likely it will not have the same momentum as that led by Bush, except perhaps in the sensitive areas of the world that are fundamentally linked to American objectives and interests. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Congratulates President-Elect Clinton

JN0411143092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the

United Arab Emirates [UAE], has sent a cable of congratulations to Bill Clinton on his victory in the U.S. presidential elections.

Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, UAE vice president and prime minister, has also sent a similar cable of congratulations to President-elect Bill Clinton.

Yemen

Salih on Elections, Violence, Iraqi Blockade

JN0311120192 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 92 p 6

[Interview with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Chief Editor Sa'd al-Bazzaz in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Bazzaz] Are you satisfied with the achievements scored by your democratic experiment and political pluralism in the country? Do you not think there are difficulties and hazards?

[Salih] I am happy with what we have achieved. The homeland has regained its unity, and we are establishing democracy today, and I am completely satisfied with what we have achieved so far.

[Al-Bazzaz] Are you under any pressure to go back on the democratic option?

[Salih] First of all, democracy is an irreversible fact. As for pressures, no one can publicly pressure us, but there is indirect pressure through the media clamor created by some papers whose links are known. Such clamor will not undermine the democratic experiment we have undertaken, which we will not abandon.

[Al-Bazzaz] Are you certain that violence will not accompany or follow the elections?

[Salih] Don't worry. Violence does not exist in Yemen. It is natural to see competition prior to the elections. Any elections are usually preceded by such competition, when each party displays its cards. But violence is something else, and it does not exist.

[Al-Bazzaz] Before the unity and before the discovery of oil and choosing democracy, Yemen had always been a target for harm from abroad. But today, after it has united and chosen democracy and after the discovery of oil, will these developments increase foreign threats?

[Salih] No doubt, the existence of oil in Yemen will increase plots against it, but all plots will fail. Recent and past history proves that all attempts at invasion and attacks against the Yemeni people have failed. The Turks tried to invade Yemen twice, and they failed. There were other attempts during various stages before and after the outbreak of the Yemeni revolution, but they all ended in failure. The Yemeni people are stronger than any foreign attempt to conspire against them.

[Al-Bazzaz] Do you feel there are some who are trying to diminish Yemen's natural regional role?

[Salih] Yemen has a status and a role, and it exists within its Arab, Islamic, and international region and atmosphere. It is also an important element for bolstering security, stability, and peace in the region. No one can diminish its role. Even if some people are seeking to diminish this role, they will not achieve anything because we have already established good and balanced relations in the Arab, Islamic, and international arenas.

[Al-Bazzaz] Two years ago when the Gulf crisis broke out, you proposed a draft nonaggression pact with Saudi Arabia. Are you considering presenting it to them once more?

[Salih] This is left for time.

[Al-Bazzaz] Were you optimistc following your visit to Baghdad on 4 August 1990, and later to Saudi Arabia and Egypt as to the possibility of settling and containing the Gulf crisis?

[Salih] Yes, I was very optimistic after I visited Baghdad because I received replies to the issues which I wanted to discuss. At the time, I sensed that an Arab solution was possible but the foreign forces interfered and everything collapsed.

[Al-Bazzaz] Where have the Yemeni-Saudi border negotiations reached?

[Salih] It is important for dialogue between us to continue. We in Yemen adopt a patient attitude toward these talks which are now being conducted by technical committees. We wish them success in safeguarding the two parties' rights and in entrenching stability in the region.

[Al-Bazzaz] Do you see on the horizon possible Arab reconcilations following the relaxation of relations here and there?

[Salih] Real Arab reconciliations need much time.

[Al-Bazzaz] According to you, what are the priorities following the Gulf war?

[Salih] It is still too early to disclose all that has taken place. But with respect to Iraq, we give priority to lifting the siege from it. When the siege is lifted the economic tribulation from which the Iraqi people suffer will no longer exist.

[Al-Bazaz] Do you get annoyed by what is published in the Yemeni press or in the Arab press that is distributed in Yemen?

[Salih] We support the freedom of the press and we will not retract this stand. We do not get annoyed by what is published here and there. On the contrary, we view this as a healthy sign. This is the real exercise of democratic life. It is impermissible to deprive the people of the

freedom to express their opinions. Under difficult economic circumstances and when the press is deprived of the freedom of expression, the situation will erupt. One cannot ban the people from expressing themselves and venting their sentiments through the press. This is because a word in the press is better than a bullet from a gun. As for the foreign press, I believe it is only natural and normal that there should be voices from outside that one can hear. In the end, the people will choose what is best and more beneficial.

[Al-Bazzaz] After going through several important documents on Yemen's stand during the Gulf war, do you not believe that your country needs to include these documents in a white paper to explain your stand and your country's stand?

[Salih] Sometimes, we think of publishing these documents as a paper. However, we leave this to time. We are eager not to embarrass any party when we take such a step.

Official, Press Reaction To Bush's Defeat

Saddam Says Bush 'Fell Long Ago'

JN0411201292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1904 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The masses of al-Ramadi city, in al-Anbar Governorate, took to streets and squares near the governorate building today to receive victorious leader Saddam Husayn. Leader President Saddam Husayn—may God preserve him—inspected al-Anbar Governorate's capital and met the sons of his mujahidin—proud and giving builders—in this governorate on the path of the living and permanent relationship between leader Saddam Husayn and his patient, struggling, and persistent people, who are faithful to the principles of the revolution and Arabism. These people are defending their national heritage in an unprecedented manner. The leader president paid this visit to inspect and take care of the life of his citizens, as well as to achieve well-being, happiness, security, and tranquility for the faithful people in the great Iraq of the Ba'th.

The leader president was received at the Governorate Building by al-Anbar Governor Salah 'Abbud and senior governorate officials. After inquiring about the progress of work on development and services projects—which he earlier ordered—the leader president gave his instructions with regard to the priorities and the method of implementation to accomplish these projects in the best and most accurate manner. His excellency—may God preserve him—also ordered the allocation of an additional 10 million dinars for the governorate to complete a water network, pave roads, and use underground water, as well as for other projects.

The leader president then addressed a valuable speech to the governorate officials, sons, and police organs on national responsibility, advanced levels of performance, and bases of civilized behavior. His excellency said: Our course in our life, in accordance with our principles, is the option of the best experience.

His excellency then met with chieftains and dignitaries in the governorate, inquiring about their conditions and the needs of their brother citizens. His talk with them was simple and full of amity and sincere nationalist cohesion between the leader and the people.

Replying to what one of the citizens' said regarding Bush's fall, the leader president said: Bush fell long ago, when he attacked Baghdad. When the citizen said that Bush is not aware of the power of Iraq and the nation, the leader president said: If George Bush did not know Iraq and the Arab nation, others should know them after past experiences, which should serve as lessons.

The leader president—may God preserve him—then emerged to the masses of the people amid thundering applause and shouts of a long life to his excellency and to the glory of Iraq and the Arabs. The masses also cursed the killers of children and the sinful gangsters and aggressors, particularly the cursed criminal George Bush.

Replying to the greeting with another greeting and as a declaration of the power which safeguards right and protects the homeland, the leader president used his personal pistol to fire several bullets as a symbol that Iraq will survive, that its people will continue to be the masters of their land and revolution, and that the Mother of Battles, with all its slogans and objectives, has continued and will continue to be the lighthouse to guide the revolutionaries' steps along the right path, while the tyrants and spiteful ones are falling one after another, chased by the curse of history, disgrace, and ignominy.

Report Calls Bush 'Criminal'

JN0411182192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1722 GMT 4 Nov 92

[From the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] U.S. television networks reported early this morning that Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton won the U.S. presidential election, making him the 42d U.S. President and the first Democrat to be elected president in 12 years. Clinton achieved his landslide victory over criminal Bush in most of the 50 U.S. states. Bush managed to win in only 10 states before officially admitting defeat. This is the ninth time in U.S. history that an incumbent president could not win reelection to a second term. Bill Clinton, age 46, is the second youngest president-elect since John Kennedy; the Arkansas governor, who was born on 19 August 1946, is one of the youngest U.S. presidents ever and the first president from the post-World War II generation. Clinton appeared before the Arkansas governor's mansion a few hours after his victory to stress that Americans have voted for a new beginning. Clinton considered his big victory a call to face the challenges of the post-cold war era, such as rectifying the U.S. economy and combating AIDS. Bill Clinton will assume power on 20 January 1993. With this big election return, Clinton ended the hopes and aspirations of criminal Bush to win reelection to another term, now that the Americans have had their say and thrown Bush out of the White House after suffering under his failed economic policy and the new world order, which has brought only war and destruction to the world.

Loss Blamed on Failure To Defeat Iraq

JN0511112592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Iraqi papers published here today were unanimous in stressing that Bush's failure to defeat Iraq—the symbol, the power, and the civilization—was the key factor for his ouster from the White House the day before yesterday.

In their editorials today, AL-THAWRAH, AL-QADISIYAH, AL-'IRAQ, and BABIL agree that Bush's aggressive trends and colonialist tendency have led him to harm the interests of his people and country, and

equally, to stage aggression against other peoples in the world. Consequently, all the people of the United States decided to throw Bush out of the office of president of their country.

AL-THAWRAH, speaking on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, reviews the series of hostile acts perpetrated by the U.S. Administration against Iraq since 1989, to the military aggression on 16 January 1991, and up to now, as well as the resulting human and material losses for the people of Iraq.

The paper says: Some people say Bush has lost due to domestic reasons, but Bush was at the peak of his power 18 months ago. We say that if the Iraqis had not stood fast the way they have, Bush would not have lost. What would have happened if Iraq had failed in the face of the U.S. Administration's plan? Would Bush have lost the elections?

The paper concentrates on the state of joy that engulfed the Iraqis following the announcement of Bush's defeat. The paper says the Iraqis do not hate persons as such, but they oppose evil deeds and intentions.

The paper also refers to the principles governing Iraq's foreign policy and the way it deals with other nations. The paper says: The Iraqis act in a balanced way when there is balanced behavior, and they respect the legitimate and reciprocal interests. Equally, the Iraqis defend themselves in the face of those who deal with them with hostile and hegemonistic intentions and evil designs.

AL-'IRAQ attacks Bush's hostile behavior against Iraq. The paper says: Bush was the clear example of a ruler who, aided by circumstances and fate, became the president of the strongest and wealthiest country and sought to work against everything humane, noble, and virtuous.

Commenting on the Iraqis' joy over Bush's defeat, AL-'IRAQ says: For us, his defeat means the collapse of all perceptions and pillars on which he built his foolish, aggressive policy against Iraq.

AL-'IRAQ links Bush's defeat in the elections with the failure of his plan to defeat Iraq. It says: If Bush had succeeded in his battle against Iraq, he would have used this victory in the worst way possible to serve his election campaign, regardless of all his failures on the level of the domestic and local policies.

AL-QADISIYAH, speaking on behalf of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, reviews the successes scored by Iraq following its steadfastness in the face of the military confrontation. The paper says: Iraq has launched its counterattack through the reconstruction campaign, the new construction march, the control of the economic embargo effects, resistance against the vicious psychological and propaganda war, and its valiant resistance against all conspiratorial chapters of the U.S. Administration's plan to defeat Iraq.

The paper links this Iraqi accomplishment and Bush's defeat in the elections and says: We can positively say that the magnificent Iraqi steadfastness had a major political effect that changed the calculations of Bush and his aides, and ultimately led to his defeat.

Regarding Iraq's objective view in the field of foreign policy, AL-QADISIYAH says: Iraq will respect legitimate and balanced interests, and will reciprocate in kind to balanced policies. Iraq also is prepared to defend itself against all evil and hegemonistic intentions that seek to harm its basic interests and its right to freedom and independence, regardless of their source.

BABIL describes Bush's defeat as the departure of a common dictator who thought that brute force could bring glory, power, and control of the world.

The paper asserts that Bush's defeat provides a good lesson to smaller, but no less evil dictators in some European countries who must understand this lesson and reconsider accordingly their attitudes and policies, both within their own countries and on the international level.

BABIL underlines the tasks awaiting President-elect Bill Clinton, saying: Clinton's victory was the decision of the American people, for whom Bush offered only unemployment, hunger, repression, the spread of AIDS, and foreign adventures. On the U.S. level, what is required from Clinton is well known, namely: To work on the economic and social levels because he owes his victory in the elections to his position on these issues. In the international field—and this is also what the American people want—he should learn how to spare the Americans the foreign adventures that, during Bush's era, brought the American people only economic crisis and isolation on the level of peoples.

'Zionists' Reactions Reported

JN0411190992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1727 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Report carried within the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] Dear listeners: The criminal George Bush's defeat by Democratic contender Bill Clinton in the U.S. presidential elections has been greeted with mixed reactions around the world. The al-Sabah and Al Sa'ud families are disappointed and have voiced their apprehensions over a possible shift in U.S. foreign policy. On the other hand, the Zionists have applauded the downfall of Bush despite the fact that he has served Zionist goals as no other president before him. More details in the following report:

Bush's defeat in the U.S. presidential elections came as no surprise; it was the result of a belligerent policy and a murky domestic and foreign policy program throughout his four-year term in the White House. Aside from some worthless agents and stooges like the Al Sa'ud and al-Sabah families, who sold themselves at a cheap price and associated themselves with the U.S. Administration, imagining that the armies of the criminal Bush and his Atlantic allies would keep their corrupt thrones from falling, few will regret his departure. For Zionists across

the political spectrum, Bush's defeat has come as welcome news—never mind the fact that he has been generous beyond their wildest dreams, and the fact that for the sake of the Zionists he spearheaded an aggression for which he assembled a coalition of forces from 33 countries to wage war against an Arab state that Israel saw as a threat to its existence.

Not that the 30-state aggression against Iraq has been Bush's only crime against the Arab nation; there have been many crimes that betrayed Bush's deep-seated hatred for Arabs and the ill will he harbors against their legitimate ambitions and rights. Bush has committed many crimes on behalf of his Zionist allies, and yet they gloat over his defeat. The reaction of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was to say: Thank God he has not been reelected. The reason Shamir expressed himself the way he did is because he holds the Bush administration responsible for the misunderstandings that have arisen between the Zionist entity and the U.S. Administration. Yitzhaq Rabin was quick to cable his warm congratulations to Bill Clinton on his election victory. In his congratulatory message, Rabin stated that he was confident the special U.S.-Israeli relationship will become even stronger than in the past.

It is obvious that the Zionists' abandonment of their ally Bush in his reelection bid was because they realized Bush had given them all that he could possibly could and so to place a bet on him was to back a lost cause.

Meanwhile, certain Zionist circles have expressed their apprehension over a possible decline in the level of U.S. assistance to the Zionist entity under the new U.S. Administration, especially against the backdrop of a campaign pledge that the revival of the U.S. economy will top Clinton's budget and agenda.

Meanwhile, U.S. citizens have expressed hope that the American economy, which was depressed by criminal Bush's economic performance, will witness an upturn. Several U.S. citizens said in newspaper interviews that they voted for Clinton, not so much because they preferred the Democratic challenger, but because they were opposed to Bush. They noted that America's ills have thrived during the Bush years in office, and they cited unemployment, the lack of health insurance for 30 million Americans, and the poor shape of the U.S. educational system.

Press Headlines Trumpet Bush Defeat

JN0511075792

[Editorial Report] Baghdad INA in Arabic at 0705 GMT on 5 November carries, without further elaboration, the following headlines as part of its daily report of Iraqi press headlines:

"Spontaneous Gatherings in Baghdad Streets To Express Joy Over Criminal Bush's Failure.

"Bush Only Reaped Failure and the Curse of History From His Aggression.

"Bush's Administration Acknowledges the Collapse of U.S. Economy.

"Bush Fails With Great Majority. Clinton Becomes U.S. President and Ends 12 Years of Republican Administration.

"Following Bush's Defeat, the Democrats, Led by Clinton, Enter the White House.

"The French Paper Liberation: Bush is the Worst U.S. President.

"Republican President Bush Knocked Out by the Democrats.

"The Dogs Also Refuse To Have Bush.

"By Supporting Bush, Baker Loses His Political Career.

"Sudanese Leader: Bush's Defeat Benefits Peace And Security.

"Palestinians: Bush, Clinton Two Sides of The Same Coin.

"Bush Pays For Economic Recession. Clinton To Face the Problem of Iran's Armament."

Kurdistan Front Said Embarrassed by Turkish Incursion

NC0211151692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1345 GMT 2 Nov 92

[Text] Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani and Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani have denounced the cross-border incursion by Turkish tanks using the bridge that links Turkey with Zakho. Talabani described the Turkish forces' act as unjustified and noted that the Kurdistan Front has asked the Turkish Government to withdraw its forces immediately.

Domestic and regional political circles believe Ankara's violation of Iraqi sovereignty when the northern part of the homeland is under Kurdish control places the Kurdistan Front in a very embarrassing position and makes it appear unqualified to administer this important part of Iraq, particularly as it failed to stage even nominal resistance to this Turkish incursion.

Barzani 'Negotiating' With Regime Over Federalism

PM0411154492 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 1 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Najah Muhammad 'Ali report: "Barzani's Envoy in Baghdad To Negotiate Over Federation"]

[Excerpt] Tehran—[passage omitted] Well-informed Kurdish sources have told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that a delegation from the Kurdistan Democratic Party led by Mas'ud Barzani is currently in Baghdad, where it is

negotiating with the Iraqi regime over federalism. At the same time the regime has sent Makram Talabani, a former minister, to Irbil in north Iraq to convey a message from Saddam Husayn announcing his acceptance of the federal rule plan and urging the Kurds to abandon the Iraqi opposition. [passage omitted]

Troops Reportedly Attack Marsh Residents

NC0511074592 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Dictator Saddam's troops last week attacked hundreds of Iraqi families [words indistinct] while assembling at the al-Masabb al-'Amm area of al-Madinah in al-Basrah Governorate. Eyewitnesses reported that large numbers of Iraqi families living in al-Basrah's marshlands had to move to the al-Masabb al-'Amm area in search of potable water. The water level in the marshes dropped greatly due to Saddam's damming and diverting of all water resources leading to the marshes to serve his project, called the Third River. According to the same eyewitnesses, troops [words indistinct] military troops moved from the al-Dayr area in al-Basrah Governorate, leading to two hours of armed clashes between these troops and tribesmen, who stood fast in the face of the regime's troops. Our sources added that two [word indistinct] vehicles were burned and scores of regime personnel were killed or wounded. Among civilians, dozens of unarmed women and children were killed or wounded.

The engineering efforts of dictator Saddam's regime focuses on [words indistinct] the final phase of his crime, called the Third River. Under this project, the course of rivers and streams feeding water into the marshlands will be diverted and the marshes will be drained to annihilate the inhabitants and eliminate their bursting sense of resistance and steadfastness.

Artillery Attacks in Southern Marshes Reported

LD0511120392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] By shelling the marshlands in southern Iraq over the past few days the Iraqi armed forces martyred dozens of civilians who had taken refuge there, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] announced in a statement yesterday. The statement described the Iraqi forces' actions in the area as a sign of Baghdad's intention to stage another extensive offensive in the area.

Regime Brigade Commander, 2 Others Killed

NC0411175292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] A commander of a military brigade of Saddam's regime was killed by the popular troops last week in the area of (Abu Khattaf), al-Basrah Governorate, while he was on a inspection visit to [words indistinct]. According to our sources, two other officers were also killed in the same operation. In addition, their light-caliber weapons as well as a (BKC) machine gun were also seized.

Sudanese Cargo Planes To Use Saudi Airspace

JN0311072592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2056 GMT 2 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—Saudi aviation authorities have agreed to allow Sudanese Airways cargo planes carrying meat to Iraq to pass through Saudi airspace.

Dr. Zuhayr 'Abd-al-Halim 'Abdallah, director of the Iraqi Company for Marketing Meat, told an INA correspondent that aviation authorities in Iraq and Sudan have received a cable from the Saudi aviation authorities confirming their agreement to allow Sudanese planes to pass through their airspace at an average of five flights weekly for six months. He added that this process will reduce the flight time by approximately 45 minutes.

Minister Reacts to John Major's Statements

JN3110185692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 31 Oct 92

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has advised British Prime Minister John Major to be realistic and abandon his imperialistic dreams.

Reacting to statements made by the British prime minister in yesterday's issue of London's AL-WASAT, Hamid Yusuf Hammadi told INA that Major must realize that it is impossible for Britain to reimpose its hegemony over Iraq.

The culture and information minister asserted that whether Major supported or kept quiet about the conspiracy, it does not alter the fact that the Anglo-American conspiracy, which sought to harm the Iraqi people's national unity, has failed.

He added: One week after the Anglo-American statement on the 32d parallel, the Anglo-American conspirators and their agents in Iran were greatly disappointed when they faced our people's uprising against them, rejection of this new conspiracy, and adherence to the leadership of their president, Saddam Husayn. They, therefore, had to keep quiet. They have even failed to produce the illusions that they hoped to instigate in southern Iraq.

Major told yesterday's issue of London's AL-WASAT that his country supports maintaining the ban on Iraqi flights below the 32d parallel.

Major Called 'Subservient'

JN0411094192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that hostile statements against Iraq made by criminal John Major, head of the British Government, and failures like him, are basically condemned to failure and frustration.

In a comment today, the paper adds: It seems that criminal John Major has forgotten the big failure and great frustration of the evil dreams and objectives sought by the vile conspiracy, in which he took part, along with criminals Bush and Mitterrand, to dismember Iraq.

The paper adds: This subservient follower of the U.S. and Zionist Administrations, who announced his country's support for maintaining the no-fly zone in southern Iraq, has forgotten, or ignored, the fact that the strong, capable people of Iraq nipped the conspiracy in the bud when they took to the streets to declare their denunciation of the conspiracy and renew their absolute allegiance to the leader of their march, Saddam Husayn, and their genuine links with the soil of the homeland.

The paper concludes: Let Major scream and shout the way he likes. Neither Major nor other criminals can change reality. The people of Iraq are united and will remain so; its land is united; and its leadership will remain whether vindictive people like it or not.

Major's Statements Criticized

JN0211120792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—BABIL newspaper affirms that John Major once again resorts to conventional and old colonialist methods of diverting the people's attention from domestic problems to foreign issues which are of no interest whatsoever to him.

In an article today, BABIL says that Major sheds crocodile tears over the Iraqi people in southern Iraq and seeks treacherous colonialist solutions for a country that is thousands of kilometers away from the starving and unemployed people in the streets of London.

BABIL says that with its hegemony the United States now threatens the colonialist interests of its European allies, particularly the United Kingdom. This has made the United Kingdom experience economic straits which were further embroiled by John Major's subservient policies and clumsy measures.

BABIL says that Major is now acting the same way as Bush acted when the United States witnessed major economic problems and suffered from natural disasters by fabricating crises and conspiracies against Iraq, thus revealing the hate he harbors in his sick heart.

The paper concludes by saying that the statements by demented veteran colonialist Major on what he calls the safe havens in Iraq will only result in his being more ridiculed and defeated. Our people are stronger than all the conspiracies and their decisive confrontation of the schemes of the evil ones has been the most resounding reply to the attempts to harm their unity and steadfastness.

Foreign Minister, New Jordanian Envoy Discuss Ties

JN0211121392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 2 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today received Nasuh al-Majali, the new ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Baghdad. Al-Majali presented to the foreign minister a copy of his credentials. They discussed fraternal bilateral relations and ways to develop them in all fields to serve the common objectives of the people of the two sisterly countries.

Saddam Representatives Refused Entry to Switzerland

PM3010163092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 28 Oct 92 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Switzerland Refuses 'Udayy Saddam and Intelligence Officer Entry"]

[Text] Geneva, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Official sources in Switzerland have revealed to SAWT AL-KUWAYT new attempts being made by the Iraqi regime to reinforce its intelligence and agents' network abroad, specifically in Europe.

The sources told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that within the framework of these attempts 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, eldest son of the Iraqi regime's head, submitted an application for an entry visa to Switzerland, but Swiss authorities rejected it. They also rejected a similar application submitted by an Iraqi intelligence officer named Husayn al-Duri.

However, the source expressed the Swiss Government's fear that the son of the Iraqi regime's head or the officer in question might reapply to enter Switzerland as a tourist, as happened with Barzan al-Tikriti, who entered as a tourist and was later appointed Iraq's representative to the UN office in Geneva.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT previously published reports about the arrival in Sofia via Jordan of Iraqi regime agents to carry out subversive activities against Kuwaiti installations and Iraqi opposition movements.

The Swiss Government fears that other Iraqi intelligence officers might have actually succeeded in entering the country with entry visas obtained by various means and on false pretexts which the quarters concerned failed to uncover.

Gulf Called on To Confront Saudi 'Ambitions'

JN0211103992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 2 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has called on the Arab masses in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf to adopt a brave and responsible stand to confront the ambitions of the Sa'ud dynasty aimed at controlling the Arab wealth in the Arab region. In an

article today under the headline "Al Sa'ud and the Subservient Leadership," AL-QADISIYAH says: The Sa'ud dynasty wants to seize the resources of their neighbors to become stronger and to turn into a regional force that would frighten the voices calling for respecting people's freedom, wisdom, and natural resources.

AL-QADISIYAH notes that the masses in the Arabian Peninsula have discovered, long ago, the dimensions of the Saudi scheme and the intentions of Al Sa'ud. They have also realized that the objective of Al Sa'ud's expansionist inclination is to serve the imperialist circles and enable them to carry out their schemes.

The paper says that the Arabian Gulf states began to realize that the danger comes from those who led them against the nation and its sublime objectives. This means that if these states yield to the Saudi intentions they will weaken and could lose the components of their existence. The paper adds that Zionism and the imperialist circles are the ones that are preparing the Saudis' role aimed at redrawing the regional borders in order to control its resources and steer these states' policies in the service of these circles' interest.

AL-QADISIYAH says: The Saudi role in the 30-state aggression against Iraq is part of the game aimed at turning Saudi Arabia into a regional force that leads the renegade and agent forces in the region. This takes place at a time when the Saudis have realized that their oil resources are running out and that they should search for new resources to help them continue to render services to the imperialist and Zionist circles.

The paper says that the Saudi move to occupy the areas which contain resources in the border areas with Yemen and Qatar as well as Saudi Arabia's differences with Oman and the regime imposed on Kuwait are evidence of the Saudi expansionist ambitions, which also include other areas in the region.

Saudi Arabia Said Undermining Pan-Arab Security

JN3110132692 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 31 Oct 92

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 31, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily for today described the recent visit by the joint U.S.-Israeli delegation to Saudi Arabia as a new conspiracy against the Arab nation and a threat to the national security.

The daily, organ of the Ministry of Defence, said that the delegation had asked the Saudi side to pressure the pro-Saudi Arab parties to precipitate the lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel imposed since 1951, the matter that reflected the extent of the existing coordination between Fahd regime on the one hand, and the U.S. Administration and the Zionist organizations on the other.

But it made it clear that the request made by the delegation, which was meant to undermine the most important pillars of the Arab action against Israel, had reflected the volume of political and moral damage the Arab boycott had inflicted upon the Israelis.

The daily shed light on the implications of the visit, and said that it represented a practical step towards promoting bilateral cooperation.

It referred to the repeated attempts by Tel Aviv and its allies along the past three decades to break the Arab boycott of Israel, pointing out that the Zionists' insistence on joining the EC and signing economic agreements with the EC members was nothing but an attempt to find a way into the Arab markets through agricultural crops and semi-finished articles that carry false certificates of origin.

AL-QADISIYAH warned that the role assumed by the Saudi regime posed a genuine threat to the Arab nation and the pan-Arab security.

Red Cross Confirms 200 POW's Released by Iran

JN0311143892 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 3 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 3, INA—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) mission in Baghdad has confirmed that 200 Iraqi prisoners of war (POW's) had returned home after being released from the Iranian detention camps.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, head of the mission Allen Shleiman said that the ICRC had not supervised the repatriation process, but its confirmed information was based on statements given by official sources at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and War Victims Committee.

Mr. Shleiman stressed that the ICRC in Geneva was still trying to work out a solution to the question of Iraq POW's still in captivity, adding that he discussed the issue in details with the Iraqi defence minister.

WHO, UNICEF Asked To Provide Vaccines

JN0311133092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Nov 92

[Text] The Ministry of Health has asked WHO and UNICEF to provide vaccines for the children of Iraq, especially a vaccine for German measles, which Iraq lacks because of the continued unjust blockade.

In letters addressed to the two organizations, the ministry said that it has been suffering from lack of vaccines for two years, and that this will cause congenital defects in newborns.

The ministry appealed to WHO to provide the vaccine for the children of Iraq who will be born with these defects if their mothers do not receive the vaccines before they deliver their babies.

Clinton Victory Spurs Commentaries, Assurances

Rabin: Peace Talks To Continue

TA0411181792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Ron Nesi'el at an Israeli creativity awards ceremony on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] The United States is a democracy. It elected Governor Clinton president. I believe that the same trends were at work in the United States as in Israel, obviously granting all the differences in political characteristics, size, and demographics. People here, in Israel, and in the United States wanted change, and this desire for change expressed itself in the elections in both these democratic countries. We congratulate President-elect Clinton. He supported all the arrangements and agreements I reached with President Bush during my U.S. visit. He said that he would favor awarding the loan guarantees, maintain the current level of aid to Israel, and support the peace process. I wish him and the U.S. people success. Second, I would like to express my deep gratitude to President Bush, who helped strengthen Israel militarily, stood by its side during the Gulf crisis, helped get us the $10 billion in loan guarantees for immigrant absorption, and, of course, helped and made possible the arrival of large numbers of Soviet and Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

[Nesi'el] You mentioned the peace process. What effect do you really think Clinton's election will have on the peace process?

[Rabin] Judging from what I heard from him, I believe that he supports the talks in their existing form and framework. Therefore, he will help them along during the transition period leading up to his swearing-in and inauguration on 20 January 1993, which is more than two and a half months from now. The negotiations will continue. We will meet the three Arab delegations in Washington on 9 November, and I am sure that both Bush and Clinton support the negotiations to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Nesi'el] Another cause for concern here is the fact that Clinton ran on a platform which called for more concentration on U.S. domestic problems. Do you fear a possible cut in U.S. aid to Israel?

[Rabin] I already spoke with him, and he has already come out with public statements expressing support for continued U.S. aid to Israel at its present level.

Peres Comments on Election

TA0411211392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] Good evening, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] And a good evening to you.

[Sukenik] Mr. Peres, what should we really expect from the new U.S. Administration?

[Peres] A strengthening of the United States. That is the main thing he will do. He was not elected on issues related to Israel, or in order to carry out Israeli policy. He was elected in order to bolster the standing of the United States—something I believe all of us living in the world are interested in.

[Sukenik] So how is that good for the Jews?

[Peres] A strong America, with a healthier economy and renewed confidence, will be able to run things everywhere in a much better fashion. As for Israel, stating things as simply as possible, the difference does not so much lie between the Presidents but rather between historic periods. When the cold war was on, the United States had a double interest: Israel, plus our readiness to stand by the United States in a confrontation with the Soviet Union. Now that this rivalry has ended and the cold war is over, it is Israel plus peace. If the United States thinks that Israel is not leading the move toward peace, or is hesitating, then we will lose America's support.

[Sukenik] Your statements are really directed at us then?

[Peres] Yes, that is the real arithmetic. The United States has profound sentiments for Israel. It has a profound regard for peace. Once it had deep feelings for Israel and a great deal of readiness to confront the Soviet Union.

[Sukenik] Therefore you expect the new administration to restore to Israel the kind of clearly preferential attitude that may have been withheld during the last year of the Bush Administration?

[Peres] My opinion is similar to the one expressed by the prime minister earlier today. Bush had a positive attitude toward Israel and treated us in a friendly manner. Perhaps I would not have subscribed to every word he said, but judging from his actions—and a leader should be judged by his actions and not by his words—then Bush was a friendly President, and I refuse to detract in the slightest from Bush's record toward Israel just to give Clinton a warmer welcome [laughs].

[Sukenik] Let us talk about Clinton. What do you know about him or is he really an enigma?

[Peres] No, he is not an enigma. Clinton came to power, just like everybody else ever elected, both on the strength of public dissatisfaction with the previous president and as a result of the public's hopes for the future. My assessment is that Bush did not put enough emphasis on his future plans. Character is no guarantee of the future. You can have a great character but a bad policy. I think that Clinton is a product of an America that is organized,

planned, and knowledgeable. He comes from a place where they really dealt with domestic issues, but there are no domestic issues in today's world. That is a myth. People are saying that Clinton will focus on economic issues. What are the economic concerns of the United States? Macy's? Is that all? The U.S. economic concerns are its relations with Japan, Europe, and what I think is really going to happen is that the world economy will increasingly assume a geographical nature. In other words, the United States will expand southwards toward Latin America, it started now with Canada to the north and Mexico to the south, and it will expand farther afield. Europe will move towards its eastern half, and Asia will organize its markets.

[Sukenik] And what about us?

[Peres] We have to establish our own market. We have no choice, this is the new world. I know people prefer to avoid these thoughts, it is easier to live with what you know and are familiar with....

[Sukenik] Are they afraid of visionary ideas?

[Peres] People generally prefer to remember things rather than think. You remember familiar things, you feel warm and happy, you know whom to love and whom to hate. If you have to think everything gets confused.

[Sukenik] But where does that leave Israel. How do you know that Clinton will not abandon the peace process or vice versa?

[Peres] He will not abandon the peace process. Those are just fairy tales. Clinton is going to serve U.S. interests. Therefore, the real question is what is the U.S. interest. The answer to that is very clear: a Middle East that is not constantly embroiled in conflict. A Middle East free of the threat of nuclear weapons. A Middle East that can stand on its own two feet and contribute to world peace. The United States does not want to let this region to get out of control again. That is a clear U.S. interest, both in the historic, geographical, and political sense. I cannot believe for an instant that any U.S. President—and Clinton is a man of manifest talents and clear positions—would deviate from this interest in the slightest. In addition, officials will be appointed to various positions, there will be a secretary of state who will have advisers. They will address the Arab-Israeli conflict which is fascinating stuff—there has not been one man who was not caught up in this web of drama and tried to draw the maximum from it. They said that Shultz only cared about economics. But Shultz found himself entranced by the Middle East. They called Baker a cold fish. Look how that cold fish was warmed up by the boiling water of the Middle East, not to mention Kissinger or Vance. Look at that long series of Democrats and Republicans. The issue is fascinating, and today it is of even greater importance because the cold war is over, and I have absolutely no doubt that Clinton's administration will continue to work for peace and a new, calmer Middle East.

[Sukenik] So you do not see any difference between the Democrats and the Republicans? The change will not affect Israel?

[Peres] It will have an effect if America grows stronger. What became clear over the past year—without any intention to criticize Bush—is that the American economy was seriously weak. Economic experts said they paid insufficient attention to the financial, and not just the industrial side of the economy. This economy needs rejuvenation. A healthy U.S. economy will be good for the entire world, as well as for Israel. We have a free trade with the United States and we wish to expand the scope of trade both with the United States and with Europe. There is nothing mysterious here. Of course there are matters of style and priorities....

[Sukenik, interrupting] As for priorities, we mentioned the fear that aid to Israel would be cut as part of the reduction in foreign aid.

[Peres] I do not really believe that. Look, we are an infinitesimal fraction of America's gross national product. America will make more than $5 trillion this year. That is $5,000 billion. That is a tremendous sum of money and half a billion here or there is of small consequence.

[Sukenik] So we will get our slice of the pie?

[Peres] Not our slice. Today there is a shared interest between Israel and the United States. We see eye to eye on the peace process with the outgoing Bush Administration. If this continues, and the most important thing to do now is to establish a dialogue, we can wish the new President good luck in his job, and if the two countries' shared viewpoint on things continues, I am sure that there will be no attempts to harm Israel's strength or reduce the level of aid.

[Sukenik] Then let us wish the President-elect good luck and thank you, Foreign Minister Peres.

Shamir: 'I Do Not Grieve'

TA0511100392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Interview with Yitzhaq Shamir, former prime minister and current Likud chairman, by Yoram Ronen in the studio on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] [Ronen] Mr. Shamir, do you anticipate a change in U.S. policy toward Israel with the election of Bill Clinton?

[Shamir] This does not seem to be the case at present. I believe that the good relations, based on friendship and cooperation between Israel and the United States, will continue.

[Ronen] Meaning that the situation will stay as it was?

[Shamir] More or less.

[Ronen] Clinton's election as president, I believe, marks a global change, an aspiration to see a younger generation take the reins of power. This feeling exists here as well, I believe, and I feel that you, being the Likud leader, have not kept secret your inclination to hand the reins of power over to the younger generation: Begin, Netanyahu, Olmert.

[Shamir] There is some truth to this; in principle, this is my stand. At the same time, age is not everything. Naturally, young forces must be promoted, but Clinton is not the youngest U.S. president. Kennedy, who I believe was even younger, preceded him. I also raised and to some extent promoted young men. I did not disqualify older men, but I did promote the young.

[Ronen] Mr. Shamir, your relations with George Bush, soon to be the former president, were not brilliant, to say the least. There was no chemistry between you; U.S.-Israeli relations during his term were no honeymoon. Perhaps the most blunt expression of this chilly attitude was his famous speech last September, in which he offended both Israel and the Jewish community. Would it be correct to say that you do not regret his downfall?

[Shamir] To sum it up, I would say that I do not grieve over it. Nevertheless, I do not consider this a personal matter, and I have never seen it as such. Former President Bush's record includes some good things that can be attributed to him in terms of relations with Israel—for example, his help on aliyah and similar issues. Nevertheless, in general, we had serious disagreements that I did not hide, nor did he.

[Ronen] Likud activists said today, and before, that there has never been a worse president for Israel than Bush.

[Shamir] I am not familiar with this statement. I am familiar with another statement that is parallel to it. The Arab countries—almost all of them, with the exclusion of Iraq—are saying that in the history of the United States there has never been a better president for the Arabs than Bush.

[Ronen] So should we rejoice that Clinton was elected?

[Shamir] I would not say that. We must first see what Clinton will do; how he will act. Bush had certain principles that disrupted friendly cooperation between Israel and the United States.

[Ronen] You say that this is no personal matter, but did the absence of chemistry and warm ties between you and President Bush not have an effect on the essence of U.S.-Israeli relations?

[Shamir] I do not believe in this whole business called personal chemistry. There must first be similar principles, similar goals. If there is such similarity and there are no contradictions and disagreements, friendly and warmer relations can be expected. For example, my experience with Secretary of State Shultz was very good. We had very good relations, despite the fact that here and there we had our disagreements. They were not as sharp as those I had with Bush. With Bush, there were issues on which he insisted vehemently. I must admit that this disturbed me a lot. One example was his determination to get us out of what he called the territories and return us to the 1967 borders. He was obsessed with this.

[Ronen] Do you agree with the Likud members who said today that although we did not intervene in the U.S. election campaign, Bush and his administration intervened, perhaps not openly, in our election campaign and did not hide their pleasure when Rabin was elected instead of you?

[Shamir] This is an estimate, naturally, but it is possible that Bush's attitude—not the personal but the ideological treatment of the Likud government's positions—had a certain impact, perhaps an indirect one, on the election results.

[Ronen] As for Clinton, do you not fear that he may choose a policy of isolationism and dwell on U.S. domestic issues, which might somewhat harm relations with us and perhaps lead to a cut in foreign aid to Israel?

[Shamir] Anything is possible. I cannot foresee every eventuality, but I do not believe that we are entering an era of American isolationism. This is inconceivable.

[Ronen] To conclude, Mr. Shamir, do you welcome Clinton's victory in the elections?

[Shamir] I would not say that I welcome this. I have always believed, and I still do, that Israel should not get involved in the democratic processes of other countries, certainly not friendly countries. We have always refrained from this. I have never involved myself in such matters, neither in my capacity as prime minister nor as foreign minister, and I will not intervene today. If you ask me, I say that I do not grieve over this, and I hope that President Clinton will operate in the manner called for by the traditional, historic U.S.-Israeli relationship.

[Ronen] Would you have said the same harsh things about President Bush had he been reelected for another term?

[Shamir] This would have been a problem, and I am glad that I do not have such a problem today.

[Ronen] Mr. Shamir, thank you.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Continuity in U.S. Policy Viewed

TA0411162792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador in Washington, by Yaron Wilensky and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Wilensky] Good evening to Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador in Washington.

[Shoval] Good evening.

[Wilensky] First I would like to ask about the atmosphere in Washington one day after the election of a new President.

[Shoval] Well, I do not think people have had adequate time to draw all their conclusions. There is hectic activity in the political institutions; there is a feeling of a changing of the guard, that suitcases must be packed. It is also worth remembering, however, that there is also a feeling of continuity. The election campaign is over, and the full weight of the facts, as well as the harsh glare of reality, are clear to the winner as well.

[Wilensky] What is the most significant thing you remember from your meetings with Bill Clinton?

[Shoval] Look, I met with Bill Clinton personally only when Prime Minister Rabin visited here. I met his deputy, Gore, more often. I have the feeling that the friendship for Israel is sincere, but I would like to say also that we should bear in mind that U.S. policy toward the Middle East in general, and toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in particular, is characterized more by continuity than is commonly perceived. Certainly there will be differences here and there regarding specific emphasis and on minor issues, but I believe that we will see more continuity than change on the basic issues. Generally speaking, I hope that the right blend between continuity and change will be found over the next few years.

[Mardor] Mr. Shoval, you speak of continuity, and I would like to ask you whether, in light of the widespread support Clinton received from the U.S. Jewish vote, he has more of an obligation as President?

[Shoval] I do not know. The U.S. Jews voted as they did, and by and large it was not much different than how the non-Jews voted. I imagine that the confrontations and feelings of resentment which have characterized relations between the Bush administration, the State of Israel, and the Jewish public over the past few years have left a mark. If we are talking about the future, however, as I said earlier, I hope that the basic friendship between the United States and Israel, and the basic feelings of support that Clinton, his entourage, and the Democratic Party really have for us... [changes thought] I think we really should hope that the United States succeeds in rejuvenating its economy without, of course, turning isolationist—and I do not think they will turn into an isolationist country—not only because of U.S. aid, which is important, but also because we have to understand that the future of the Israeli economy is dependent to a large extent on increasing local exports. To where will we export if the United States and large parts of the world are in the midst of an economic recession? Therefore, we share the hopes and prayers of the American people that the new administration will manage to invigorate the U.S. economy.

[Wilensky] I would like to ask you a very short and informative question about the loan guarantees: Are there still any additional stages that have to be approved by the administration? Will there not be any problems...?

[Shoval, interrupting] No, there will not be any problems. This already has entered the administrative, bureaucratic machinery. I did not use the term bureaucratic in any derogatory manner, but merely in the regular, office-related sense. We are really at the very last stages. There will be no problems.

[Mardor] One more matter-of-fact question, Mr. Shoval. There have been reports in Israel that Professor Itamar Rabinovich will be appointed Israeli ambassador to Washington soon. Were you informed?

[Shoval] Am I informed?

[Mardor] Were you spoken with or informed?

[Shoval] Look, this business of my ending my term here was already wrapped up many months ago, a short time after the Israeli elections. There is nothing new. Prime Minister Rabin and myself agreed that I would continue my job here until next spring. That is how things stand now, and this is good because it will enable us to offer the new administration a dimension of continuity.

[Wilensky] Then you will return to Israeli politics?

[Shoval] I do not know. Already on the day I was appointed ambassador I declared that I was staying away from politics the moment I assumed a diplomatic position and would not even discuss politics, not even my own political future, until I concluded my post.

[Wilensky] Thank you, Ambassador Shoval.

General Discounts Election Effect

TA0411170692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, estimates that the change of administrations in Washington will not have an immediate effect on the peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Maj. Gen. Rothschild today briefed the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the financial edge the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] had gained over the Fatah in the territories. Our correspondent Ro'i Grinwald reports.

[Begin recording] [Grinwald] Maj. Gen. Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, said that the effect of the change in administrations in Washington would not be immediately felt in the territories.

[Rothschild] I do not think that the change of administrations in the United States will affect the field to the extent of either imposing calm or accelerating violence. The factors behind activity in the field are not necessarily motivated by the question of who sits in the White House.

[Grinwald] The change of guard in Washington, Rothschild assessed, would not affect the peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

[Rothschild] I can confidently say that I do not believe it will slow down the talks, nor do I see it as a catalyst for more rapid progress over the next few months. The tempo of the negotiations is decided according to the Palestinians' capability and desire to enter negotiations.

[Grinwald] Maj. Gen. Rothschild, who today appeared before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, reported tha: the Hamas enjoyed a financial edge over the Fatah in the territories thanks to funds coming in from Iran and Islamic organizations in Saudi Arabia. The Fatah, on the other hand, has not received money from the Gulf States ever since the Gulf War. Maj. Gen. Rothschild told the committee members that the economic situation in the territories had worsened after money infusions from the Arab states were stopped, and due to the cutback in the number of Palestinians permitted to set out for work in Israel. [end recording]

Bush 'Got What Was Coming to Him'

TA0511124492 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 5 Nov 92 p 2

[Editorial: "The Clinton Era"]

[Text] The main theme of the U.S. elections, which accorded a landslide victory to Bill Clinton and a devastating defeat to George Bush, was the economic situation in the United States and the wish to make a change. The results of the elections will not only affect the United States but the entire world. Israel expects its relations with the United States to develop and strengthen in the Clinton era in a way that will promote mutual interests and help Israel solve its problems.

One country should not meddle in the domestic affairs of another, but in this case there is no reason to regret the change of administrations. Outgoing President George Bush has scored numerous achievements, some of which had repercussions for Israel. His moves and leadership during the Gulf war, excluding the final stage, deserve a great deal of appreciation. The large defense aid he put at Israel's disposal stands to his credit. He largely contributed to the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia. During his tenure, however, there were jarring utterances about Israel and the Jewish leadership in the United States. Some instances, such as when Secretary of State James Baker left his phone number or when he reprimanded the Jewish lobby for its actions regarding the loan guarantees, were downright humiliating. George Bush went too far with his gross intervention in the elections in Israel, when he sought to bring down the Likud government by holding up the guarantees to finance the absorption of Soviet Jews—and he did. Such intervention in the affairs of another country is unacceptable, and that is why we are right to be pleased that he got what was coming to him.

It should be noted in this context that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made a mistake when he gave his support to George Bush in the critical stages of the election campaign, thus rewarding the President for his help. This is unacceptable, too. Although he eventually turned out to have bet "on the wrong horse," this was an unsavory move nevertheless. It is to be hoped that this conduct will not cast a pall on bilateral relations.

Judging from our experience with previous administrations, Clinton's statements during the election campaign, and the men surrounding him, we have good reason to believe that the new President will be sympathetic to Israel and that the two countries will share a warm relationship. Yet while the key officials the new President will appoint are very important, there is no room for excessive optimism. The administration will act according to what it considers U.S. interests, and these will not necessarily be compatible with what we perceive as Israel's interests.

There might be problems on the issue of foreign aid, because the administration may seek to reduce this aid to help it deal with its domestic economic woes. We will have to work hard to convince and explain that this aid is not only vital to Israel but is an international interest in our region.

A key question is the involvement of the new administration in the Arab-Israeli peace process. Israel wants to pursue the process and is interested in a positive outcome. The Clinton administration will take action to advance the process. The President-elect will probably ease the pressure on Israel to make far-reaching concessions. Tragically enough, however, the current Israeli Government is interested in such pressure and in advancing a peace process led by external dictates. The current government is probably ready to make more concessions than the new U.S. Administration would ask. This being the case, Israel will not benefit from the advantages inherent in the change of administrations in the United States.

'Sensible Policy' Key to Ties

TA0511115692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 92 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Good for Which Jews?"]

[Text] The question is often asked whether Bill Clinton is good for the Jews, as if what is good for Yosi Sarid is also good for Ge'ula Kohen. People ask whether Clinton is

good for the Arabs, as if what is good for Saddam Husayn is also good for Faysal al-Husayni. Yitzhaq Shamir reacted to George Bush's defeat by quoting the biblical phrase: "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls."

In the last interview prior to the Knesset elections, Shamir said that there had been nothing exceptional in Bush's Middle East policy, seeing that all U.S. Presidents since 1967 thought Israel should withdraw from all the territories. The problem with Bush, the Likud leader said, is that he is determined to implement this policy. Hence, the right wing's hope for Clinton's victory was based on the assumption that the new President would display his friendship toward Israel by sitting on the fence of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This assumption could have been right, were it possible to erase the memory of Shamir, Faruq al-Shar', and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi at the Palacio Real in Madrid from the annals of history. Given the choice between healing the U.S. economy and dealing intensively with the chronic Middle East conflict, Clinton would undoubtedly deal first with his domestic woes; however, the Bush Administration will bequeath him a region which is rather well on its way to recovery within an agreed structure, the beginning of an agenda, and isolated signs of a recovery. One would have to be narrow-minded and a fool to let such an opportunity slip by.

Clinton will soon realize that such a vacuum will not be left empty for long and that the Europeans aspire to fill it. All signs indicate that Clinton and his learned advisers will not let that happen.

The characteristics of the Clinton administration and the new Congress are good news for those Jews and Arabs who look for a balanced arrangement coupled with mutual concessions. Those who advocate a total and immediate solution are probably in for a bitter disappointment. I would not be surprised if at the end of his term, Jewish settlers were to anoint Clinton with the title "Israel hater," while the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] were to accuse him of being a latent Zionist.

As long as the bilateral negotiations continue on more or less of an even keel at the State Department in Washington, one should not expect the new secretary of state to stray from his predecessor's behavior and meddle in matters of substance. If and when it is felt that the negotiations might go under, however, he will be there; you bet he will! A new President cannot allow himself to take the rap for squandering the inheritance. When the President makes his move, Shamir's analysis will prove to have been right: Every U.S. President since 1967 believes in the principle of territory for peace.

Clinton undertook to transform the arms industries for civilian uses. If he succeeds, this will have a positive effect on the arms race in the Middle East—and that is good for the Jews. On the other hand, he is committed to clearing the region of nuclear arms—and some think this is bad for the Jews. The new administration is not saddled with Bush's debt to Syria for standing by it in the Gulf war. Clinton will have a hard time finding a common language with the totalitarian regime in Damascus, while he has shown signs of understanding the Israeli Government's hesitations about making an arrangement with its neighbor based on faith in Syria's goodwill.

Although the Democrats are more aware than the Republicans of the fact that Israel is the only democracy in the region, they are also more sensitive to the rights of minorities. Bush's terms of reference are the Texan oil tycoons dependent on Saudi Arabia, while Clinton is interested in Richard Dreyfus' view about Peace Now.

True, the new President owes a lot to the Jews, to the hundreds who surround him and to the thousands who contributed to his campaign. Does the Likud have any reason to rejoice? That would be overly simplifying things. Had these Jews the right to vote for the Knesset, many of them would vote for Labor and Meretz, just as Shamir, were he an American goy who never heard of Israel, would probably vote for Bush. Whenever there was a crisis in its relations with the administration, Israel turned to Congress for help. Israel's ability to maneuver between the centers of political power will decrease in view of the fact that the administration enjoys the backing of the majority in Congress. Moreover, the dozens of new congressmen who have joined the ranks did not know AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] in its heyday and are not afraid of it.

Consequently, the bottom line is: As long as Clinton has to deal with a sensible Israeli Government that does not stick to an all-or-nothing approach, Jerusalem and Washington will have a honeymoon. As for the advocates of Greater Israel, the most they can hope for is that Clinton will also pressure the Arabs to forgo some of the territories in exchange for full peace.

U.S. Interest in Peace To Continue

JN0411170992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1435 GMT 4 Nov 92

["Analysis and Comment" feature by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Yesterday, the American people made their decision through a free and democratic election, in accordance with which Bill Clinton was elected the new president who will assume his office in the White House on 20 January. On that date, the new president will begin to run the affairs and interests of his people, as well as the affairs of his country—the superpower which has a distinguished role in the international arena as a whole, and which has a pioneering role in the creation of the new world order.

Naturally, it is wise not to make any predictions of the future. Likewise, it is premature now to talk about the posture of the coming Clinton administration, or about how it will handle its country's domestic affairs and foreign policy. Yet, several matters can be deduced and

diagnosed given the program and statements of the U.S. president-elect during the election campaign and his speech at dawn today after his victory was confirmed. Among such matters, the U.S. president-elect's assertion of his intention to primarily deal with the American people's domestic economic and social problems is predominant.

In fact, the prevailing opinion among observers is that one of the major causes—if not the decisive one—for the American people's decision not to reelect George Bush is the deteriorating economy and the feeling of the majority of voters that President Bush gave priority to his concern for foreign affairs over the American people's economic and domestic affairs.

While signs indicate that the coming Clinton administration will give priority to economic and domestic affairs, this does not mean that it will ignore foreign affairs or that it will not give them their due attention. Neither does this mean that the Clinton administration will adopt an isolationist policy in the international arena.

With regard to the Middle East and efforts to a achieve a comprehensive peace here, it can be justifiably believed that the coming Clinton administration, just like the Bush administration, will continue to render its good services to advance the peace process in pursuance of one of the constants of U.S. foreign policy. This is because peace in the Middle East constitutes a vital interest for the United States, and indeed the West in general.

In fact, there has been speculation in the press that the U.S. president-elect and President Bush have reached an understanding to appoint former U.S. President Jimmy Carter or former Secretary of States James Baker as a special presidential envoy to the Middle East to keep the peace process going during the transitional period leading to Clinton's inauguration on 20 January 1993.

Since Middle East peace is a vital U.S. interest, it is obvious that it is futile to wager or argue on whether the election of Clinton has been in the interest of this or that party to the Arab-Israeli dispute. All parties should abandon their tendency to depend on others and to realize that the United States and other benevolent forces can play an assisting and thankful role. However, the keys to real peace in the Middle East have always been and continue to lie in our region. Such keys depend primarily on the wisdom of this region's rulers.

'Relative Indifference' in Territories

TA0411173792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The results of the U.S. elections were received with relative indifference in the territories. Some of the residents expressed concern over Bill Clinton's anticipated pro-Israeli policy, while others expressed satisfaction with George Bush's defeat. Udi Segal, our correspondent in the territories, reports on today's incidents.

[Begin recording] [Segal] The change of Presidents in the United States had no effect in the territories, neither on the residents nor on the level of violence. Two women soldiers were slightly injured this morning after stones were thrown at an Israeli bus they were travelling in on the Jerusalem Ramallah road near the village of Ar Ram. The windows of the bus were smashed.

In Bayt Jala, near Bethlehem, an Arab resident sustained light to moderate injuries in his leg from IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire. He was shot during an incident in which several Arab residents hurled rocks at an Israeli car.

Most of the Palestinian residents professed indifference over the results of the U.S. elections. No preferences were voiced for either candidate, but many expressed satisfaction over George Bush's defeat. The residents of the territories have not forgotten his role in the Gulf War. [passage omitted]

Palestinian intellectuals and notables expressed concern over Bill Clinton's effusive pro-Israeli statements. [passage omitted].

Many people in the territories believe that Clinton is better for the Jews than for the Arabs. [passage omitted].

Not everyone is pessimistic, for example Marwan Abu-Salah, the editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-QUDS, considered the possibility that Clinton's recent statements regarding Israel may have been merely part of his election propaganda. In any case, the assessment is that the U.S. political turnabout will not have any immediate effect on the territories or on the negotiations in Washington.

Settlers Appeal to Clinton

TA0511072192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The heads of the Emunim Movement have made an unusual appeal to President-elect Clinton, asking him not to give Israel funds or guarantees because, they claim, this hurts Israel's independence. The movement has called on Clinton to change the political process, whose sole aim, they claim, is to make Israel fully withdraw from the territories and the Golan Heights. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports:

Please, Bill, do not give Israel any money or guarantees because this hurts Israel's economy and independence. This call was issued by the heads of the Emunim Movement, who will stage a demonstration today in front of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. The leaders of this movement, established to replace Gush Emunim, have stressed that the U.S. grants and aid are turning Israel into a psychological beggar and damage its sovereignty. In a cable of congratulations Emunim sent to the new U.S. president, the movement says: The political process, mistakenly called a peace process, has one single aim: To force Israel to withdraw fully to indefensible borders. [passage omitted]

On the other end of the political spectrum, the Peace Now Movement sent a cable to Clinton in which it calls on him to continue supporting the peace process. The right wing's elation over the downfall of George Bush, Peace Now claims, is a result of its desire for revenge and its wish to stop the peace process, and not a considered analysis of the new administration's plans.

Rabin Proposes 'Modular Formula' for Withdrawal

TA0511061292 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Nov 92 p 1

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] The scope of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights will depend on the extent to which Syria will be willing to define the essence of peace it intends to make with Israel. This is the "modular formula" recently formulated by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a bid to persuade the Syrians to advance the peace talks.

The formula proposed by Rabin contains new elements designed to breathe new life into the peace talks with Syria during the transition period between the two U.S. administrations, on the eve of next week's round of talks, which are scheduled to last 10 days.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has instructed Israeli envoys in the EC countries not to oppose Syria's request for financial aid from the European Parliament. To date, Israel has always opposed every Syrian aid request. Sources in Jerusalem said the current move may be construed as a gesture toward Syria.

Officials, Press View Clinton's Victory

Minister on U.S. Commitment to Peace

JN0411131192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Statement by Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir in Amman on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] First, let me offer my sincerest congratulations to Bill Clinton on his election victory and wish him every success in his big mission in light of the principles of right and justice.

The U.S. decision-making process involves institutionalism, which permits continuity despite the change in leadership. Naturally, we followed the U.S. elections on all levels with great attention and admiration for democracy and the spirit of democracy to which we adhere here in our country and which we have chosen as a trend for our political life for a long time. We expect the traditional relations between Jordan and the United States to continue as they have and even become stronger in the interest of peace and the humanitarian causes that are of common concern to our two countries.

The noble principles on which the U.S. system was based were the object of admiration and appreciation by the Arabs, all the Arabs, at the beginning of this century. We hope that these principles will be safeguarded and will continue to be honored in the interest of bolstering our bilateral friendship.

We hope that the United States will continue to be committed to the Middle East peace process, a process based on international legitimacy and represented in the implementation of the UN resolutions, particularly those dealing with the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, namely the Palestine question. I refer to Resolutions 242 and 338 and the need to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, and the need to give the Palestinian people their right to self-determination on their national soil, in addition to the need to be committed to the implementation of Resolution 425 calling for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territories. The President-elect is apparently greatly concerned about the Middle East question. This is proven by what is disseminated by the news agencies and newspapers about his desire to appoint a special envoy to the Middle East. We hope there is such concern, particularly in light of the commitment to the noble principles by which our two countries abide.

Peace Talks Spokesmen Comment

JN0411210492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Interview with Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Kassab Samawi in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [al-Mu'ashshir] It is very premature to determine whether the peace process will witness a major change in view of the arrival of a new U.S. administration. This is because of several reasons. First, it is obvious that there is a strategic U.S. policy calling for a solution to the Middle East issue, irrespective of the existing U.S. administration and irrespective of whether such an administration is Democratic or Republican. Also, as Hanan 'Ashrawi said, the statements made by Clinton's crew were launched during the election campaign. It was also observed that such statements were few and far between. Perhaps this election campaign witnessed the fewest statements on the Middle East of all recent U.S. election campaigns. This indicates that such statements were made only to beg for Jewish votes in states harboring strong Jewish voting power. Besides, if we look at the proposed candidates for the U.S. crew, especially the ones concerned with foreign policy, we find that most of them have good experience in foreign policy and maintain fairly balanced views with regard the Middle East. For example, I would mention Warren Christopher and Lee Hamilton, who are both candidates for the post of secretary of state. I would also mention Sam Nunn or Admiral Crowe for the post of defense secretary or even national security adviser. All these candidates, in fact, are not bad. On the contrary, they have long experience. Therefore, we should wait before judging whether there will be any U.S. policy change with respect to the Middle East.

[Samawi] Dr. Hanan, the U.S. elections took place in the middle of the seventh round of peace talks here in Washington. Do you believe that the second half of these negotiations will be affected by the change?

['Ashrawi] The effect might be positive. I believe this will free the Israeli side from the question of stagnation and waiting for the results of the elections. In my view, this change will also lead to an intensification of political activity during the transitional period by way of cooperation between the outgoing government and the incoming government to achieve substantial progress that would guarantee continuity to the peace process. Of course, these are only speculations, and we have to wait and work with the new and old administrations to determine the extent of interest and commitment to the need to intensify action. However, we should also note that the principles of the Democratic Party include basic and substantial issues that can serve the interests of the Middle East and the Palestine question in particular, especially if we view questions such as human rights, anti-discrimination, and activating people's wills. Such issues are historically part of the Democratic Party's platform and can contribute to developing, let us say, a less-biased view toward the Palestine question. However, this too depends on many factors, not only on the Democratic Party's internal position. There are also

clear needs and factors, such as the economy, to which brother Marwan has referred. No party or administration can dispense with the international dimension, despite its preoccupation with domestic issues, especially with respect to the economy. The United States has external and international needs, as well as relations and commitments that are not subject to the change of personnel in the White House.

Daily Says Bush Finds Place in 'Oblivion'

JN0511102792 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Nov 92 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Arab Reality First"]

[Text] Finally, Mr. Bush has joined Mrs. Thatcher and former president Gorbachev, by finding his niche in oblivion and becoming the third head to roll after the Gulf war. While prolonged analyses will be written on the President's election fiasco, the important thing for all the Arabs is to understand that the Democratic Party candidate's success has not been a victory for them and that the U.S. policy will not in the near future abandon its rude practices in the Arab arena against Iraq. It is also necessary for the Arabs to be aware that the hopes which they wish President-elect Clinton to realize, represented by continuous commitment to the peace process, require a firm Arab reality to support them. Nobody will present to the Arabs peace on a silver platter. What could realize this peace for them is their reality which compels others to take interest in the just and comprehensive Arab peace and to support efforts that are necessary to realize it.

In light of this concept, we say that nobody will deal fairly with the Arabs except themselves. They should begin by becoming magnanimous to one another, forgetting their wounds, and working hard to build a new Arab reality which will be able to compel others to respect their just causes, particularly the peace which they are seeking.

Jordan has often called on the brothers to do that and is still calling for it. It is hoped that they will respond to the call without hesitation or delay.

Bush's departure for his niche in oblivion must not make the Arabs neglect their care for themslves, and Clinton's coming to the presidency and into the limelight should not lead us to exaggerate our optimism that our hopes will be realized.

Clinton Campaign Statements Viewed

JN0511122492 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Nov 92 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Clinton's Victory"]

[Text] We view the result of the U.S. presidential elections with great interest and apprehension because this race was not a domestic American event, and cannot be regarded as a casual political development. This is due to the United States' great status in world politics in its capacity as the sole superpower.

All observers will understand the reason for our concern, and that of the whole world, over the results of the U.S. presidential elections. However, our apprehension over President George Bush's defeat is due to the several statements, announcements, and pledges made by the candidate who won the presidential race to Israel, which occupies Arab territory, usurps the rights of fraternal people, and threatens the Arab world with aggression and expansion.

Hence, it is logical that the Arab world receives the victory of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton with reservations which are based on real fears that the new president will implement the pledges he made during his electoral campaign once he becomes president, including moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and ending what he called Bush's pro-Arab bias.

As we recall all these pledges announced by Clinton over the past few weeks, we are aware that election talk and need to win the U.S. Jewish votes become very different when it comes to practical implementation when the President-elect takes over power. He will then be facing a host of considerations that do not allow him to implement all the pledges he made to voters. This is what happened with former President Ronald Reagan when he promised during his elections campaign to move the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem.

Hence, while recording our reservations toward the electoral statements of the new U.S. president, we know in advance that the U.S. policy will not change with the mere change of presidents. We also know that the U.S. decisionmaking establishments already exist and are stable, and they serve the U.S. foreign interests no matter who is in the White House. We hope to see no further U.S. bias toward Israel during the next four years, which will be decisive with regard to the current peace process that is under direct U.S. auspices.

'Unbiased' U.S. Role Urged

JN0511104892 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Nov 92 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Clinton's Reign and Arab-American Relations"]

[Text] The world countries and peoples, including the Arab nation, have carefully followed the U.S. elections because the U.S. foreign policy impacts on the entire international community, particularly that since the end of the cold war and the Gulf war the United States has gained more political, economic, and military influence than it used to have in the past.

No one can deny or ignore the fact that the United States, whether it has a Republican or a Democrat administration, has turned away from the just causes of the Arab nation, particularly the Palestine question and

the Palestinian people's rights. These administrations have been biased toward Israel, supplied it with money and weapons, and enabled it to maintain its military superiority.

During President Bush era, the U.S. policy played a dangerous role in harming the Arab nation and inciting dangerous differences and conflicts within Arab ranks.

No one can ignore the destruction and catastrophes that were inflicted on fraternal Iraq as a result of the U.S.-led 30-state aggression against Iraq during the rule of former President George Bush.

We can say that the continuous U.S. bias toward Israel has aborted all attempts and efforts aimed at establishing balanced relations of friendship and cooperation based on an exchange of interests, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs. The successive U.S. administrations have placed Israel's interests before all other considerations. This has shaken Arab trust in the U.S. intentions during the Republican and Democrat rules.

Now that Bill Clinton has won the elections and the Democratic Party begins a new era, the Arabs are hoping to overcome the past differences with all their negative and hostile effects, and to work for turning a new page of relations of cooperation based on new principles of mutual respect of bilateral interests.

The Arabs are looking forward to a just and unbiased U.S. role in the peace process so that all parties to the negotiations abide by the resolutions of the international legitimacy that call for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to return and to self-determination.

Paper on Clinton Views

JN0511073692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Nov 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Continuity or Change?"]

[Text] The election of Bill Clinton to the seat of U.S. president was no surprise to experts, specialists or even observers of the American political scene. Twelve years of Republican presidents were enough conservatism for a predominantly and historically liberal society. The last four years under George Bush were less euphoric than the first four years of President Ronald Reagan. Apart from his stint into the Middle East region, most probably under Pentagon urging, Bush's foreign policy was characterised as "wimpish" and, at best, fuzzy. To complicate matters, by following his predecessor's low taxes, high defence spending policy and by failing to address the upwards spiral of entitlements' costs (health care, social security), Bush's economic policy resulted in a rocketing of U.S. indebtedness. And to add insult to injury, the American president and his Republican colleagues started a conservative campaign aimed at the social morals of Americans and their personal liberties.

Mr. Clinton and the Democrats have a great deal of reversing of conservative policies to do. While most of the issues that dominated the election campaign were of a domestic nature and while the Democrats were accused by the Bush camp of being isolationists, the Clinton administration can by no means afford to reduce or even slow down U.S. involvement in world affairs. The American role in world politics since World War II has been so prominent that any disengagement in the immediate future would have disastrous consequences for America itself and for the rest of the world. Not that U.S. foreign policies are so favourable that they please everyone, not least the Arabs. What the world has been demanding of the U.S. is fairness and an overall commitment to America's own ideals and principles.

What saddens the Arab World, therefore, is Mr. Clinton's declaration, in an interview with a Saudi newspaper, that he wanted to reverse what he called Bush's bias towards the Arabs. We wonder if Mr. Clinton is aware of the fact that many Arabs consider Mr. Bush their number one enemy and are frankly puzzled by the notion of Bush's "pro-Arab" policies. Yet we hope that Mr. Clinton's pronouncements were only electioneering statements.

However, it is still too early to discern what exactly Mr. Clinton and his colleagues have in mind for the Middle East. One thing is certain, however: Middle East stability and security are vital to U.S. interests, even in the aftermath of the cold war. We, therefore, believe that U.S. policies towards the region will not go through any radical changes. And we sincerely hope the new administration in Washington will accord the region the attention it requires.

U.S. Embassy Official Cited on Continued Support

JN0411211192 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Amman, 4 Nov (PETRA)—An official U.S. spokesman in Amman has affirmed that the United States, under the administration of President-elect Bill Clinton, will continue its support for Jordan, both politically and economically.

Peter Kovach, press adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, told the Jordanian News Agency that his country's government is interested in bolstering the over 40-year-old traditional relations of friendship with Jordan in the hope of developing bilateral cooperation in the interest of the Jordanian and American peoples.

He added that Jordanian-U.S. relations are proceeding along the right course. He said that dialogue between the two countries is excellent, pointing out that dialogue on points of disagreement must continue. He stressed the need to leave behind the past era of strained relations, which has since ended thanks to the two countries' concern for putting matters on their right track. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Interviewed by Israeli Paper

TA0411180192 Tel Aviv TEL AVIV in Hebrew 30 Oct 92 pp 36, 37, 39

[Interview with Jordanian King Husayn by Jeffrey Stern in Amman; date not given—the following item includes the excerpts of the interview published in this section of the 4 November NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT.]

[Text] [Stern] Your Majesty, you belong to the rare species that is gradually dying out—royalty. Today, when relatively few royal houses are left in the world, do you think this institution has any point to it?

[Husayn] The point sometimes escapes me. The fact is that here, in Jordan, this is indeed an honor and a duty that we perform. It should be remembered that we belong to a family that is part of the most ancient tribe in the Arab world. We are descendants of the prophet Muhammad, and for me this is much more important than to be a king. In any event, I have always considered myself as an ordinary man who was placed in this position, and I always try to do my best not to disappoint and to measure up to hopes and expectations.

[Stern] Is it logical that at the end of the 20th century there are still world leaders who are where they are thanks to the fact that their parents or grandparents were rulers? Is this not obsolete?

[Husayn] As far as I am concerned, I felt it was my duty to go beyond what I received. I allowed people to rule themselves, to delegate powers, and to turn this country into a democracy. The continued existence of the royal house in the future depends on the people already. The decision is in people's hands, not in anybody else's.

[Stern] You grew up in Amman, and received your education in Alexandria. Did you understand that the day would come when you would turn king?

[Husayn] This was not clear to me at all. I certainly did not expect it to be so, but then I went through a chain of tragic incidents, some of which led me to shoulder this responsibility at a very young age.

[Stern] You are surely referring to the death of your baby sister. Also, your father was sick for a long time, and on 20 July 1951, when you accompanied your grandfather, King 'Abdallah, to al-Aqsa Mosque, he was shot by assassins. A bullet hit you too, but you were miraculously saved. Can you remember the emotions and thoughts which went through your head in that split second when everything took place?

[Husayn] My impression was that the incident took much longer than a split second. Time stood still, as it were. This was followed by a feeling of great fury. When I followed or tried to follow the assassin who turned toward me and continued to shoot, fire was directed at him already. One bullet hit the medallion which I was honored to receive from my grandfather as an honorary captain in the Arab legion and his aide. When I approached him, he was dead already. I looked around and discovered that the place was almost totally deserted. Most of the people who had always been around him, enjoying his protection and supervision, disappeared. This is another shock I carry with me to this day.

[Stern] Why was the place deserted?

[Husayn] I believe everyone was trying to save his skin and look for cover given the dangerous situation.

[Stern] Were you not afraid yourself?

[Husayn] No, not at that moment. Perhaps, as was the case so many times later on, at a moment of real crisis or danger I manage quite well. The shock enters the conscious level later. The death of my grandfather was a terrible loss, the meaning of which I did not understand. I knew he was like a father to me for a short period in my life, as nobody else ever was.

[Stern] Did he teach you to be a king?

[Husayn] I saw his love and commitment to his nation, despite the disappointments he experienced throughout his life in his activity on behalf of Jordan and the Arab world.

[Stern] That tragedy occurred while you were still very young. After the attack you were sent to school in Britain and a year later a friend received a cable from Amman from "His Royal Highness, King Husayn." Your father yielded the throne, you were 17. At 17 were you ripe to be made king?

[Husayn] No, I was not. A royal conference was convened for that purpose. Of course, I came back to Jordan, my country, and everybody received me with great warmth. To the older generation, I was a young man and to the young I was one of them. Then I decided that until I reached adulthood the best thing to do was to receive a military training. A special concentrated military course was prepared for me at Sandhurst Military Academy. I believe it was a turning point in my life and one of the best periods in my life up to then. One could say that I had changed and turned from a boy into a man physically and emotionally. I developed a sense of responsibility, I enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and the team spirit there, and then I came back. I was about to accept the responsibility and posts as dictated by the law at the age of 18.

[Stern] Did you go to Sandhurst to be militarily trained as part of your royal commitment to lead your people in battle if the need arises?

[Husayn] Not necessarily. My father went to Sandhurst and my son 'Abdallah is a graduate of the Royal College, and so is one of my daughters. One son went to Cornell after completing his university studies. That is our family tradition. The Jordanian king heads the armed

forces, and I was always proud of being part of the forces, just as I was proud of being a cadet at Sandhurst.

[Stern] You said that in 1953 you were crowned, and you have been ruling since then.

[Husayn] I was crowned symbolically.

[Stern] You usually say that you are a simple man, but you are a simple person in a not so simple position. Is that not so?

[Husayn] In life I fear only two things: God and my conscience. God blessed me with concern for other people, toward everyone. I feel more comfortable outside with people than inside this office. There is nothing extraordinary about me. I am really a simple man who tries to do his best and tries to contribute towards a better future for the people, despite my status and the complex circumstances.

I am like a motor trying to encourage the people and if something breaks down I try to cope with it. I never believed that differences of opinion have to reach a point from which there is no return. I believe in dialogue, argument, and discussion, and I believe in democracy here, not because it is required, but because the leadership has contributed all it could to make it a reality. The possibility of sitting together with people who could be situated on the other side of the barricade, to work things out with them, to plan the future, to prepare for pluralism, those are some of the pleasures in my life.

[Stern] With which leadership traits are you blessed? Is the ability to mediate one of them?

[Husayn] Possibly. I have many years experience. The difficulties we have undergone perhaps enabled me to develop an ability to suggest to people the correct path to take. Unconnected to my position, it seems to me that a certain level of trust has been formed, which permits us to make progress even if the circumstances are difficult.

[Stern] Are the talents required of you ordinary leadership traits, or is there something special derived from the fact that you are a member of a royal family?

[Husayn] I do not think there is something special or different about me. I am not power hungry and I am not competing with anybody. I try to perform my tasks and make my life worthwhile. This political system cannot be implemented everywhere although I believe that the monarchy in certain places in the world brings stability and continuity. In reference to me, I always believe that if I realize that I have become an obstacle to this country I will abdicate without anybody having to suggest it first. There are those hungry for power, who try to find power at any price, I am not one of them.

[Stern] Have you ever felt that it would have been preferable to live without this office than with it?

[Husayn] I suppose I would have been much more relaxed.

[Stern] You are not only a king you are also an Arab leader. Does the leadership of an Arab state call for special traits?

[Husayn] It calls for a great deal of endurance and trust in people, like everywhere else. We should recall that I am not running the country. For that there is a government, a freely elected parliament. We began to take that path in the 1950's since I believed in it, but it did not succeed. After the 1967 disaster it appeared to be impossible to hold free elections. The moment it became possible again, we went back to it. Now, it is the practice, and I hope we will continue along that way.

[Stern] Is there a disparity between what you would like to do and what you must do?

[Husayn] There is a disparity because there are restrictions. There are no fixed working hours. It is a struggle in which there is no day and no night. You must be prepared always to accept telephone calls or visitors, and then to act and respond quickly. It is a very heavy burden. Although I am surrounded by many loving and concerned people, there is a lot of loneliness.

[Stern] You noted that Jordan is moving in a democratic direction. Would you call yourself a constitutional leader?

[Husayn] Of course, or at least on the way to it.

[Stern] What are the control mechanisms of power here?

[Husayn] A clear distribution [of power] between the legislature, the government, and the judiciary. In the final analysis. the king supervises everybody, unifies the people, and somehow creates the balance to make sure that this division is upheld.

[Stern] How do you maintain that balance? Are there Palestinians and non-Palestinians in the cabinet? Are there people from the left wing, the right wing, and so forth?

[Husayn] All Jordanian citizens enjoy equal rights, regardless of their origin. There is absolutely no difference from that point of view. We always took pride in us all being one family in that regard. We all believe in God, we all belong to monotheistic religions, and this is something I never allowed anyone to spoil.

[Stern] Controversies can arise within the family, too. When choosing a team of advisers, do you prefer to surround yourself with yes-men [previous word in English], or do you prefer people who will say: "Your Majesty, you are wrong?"

[Husayn] I definitely prefer people who will tell me I am wrong, if that is how they feel. I welcome this, and I assure you that my work day includes many free, amicable debates. I think one of the greatest tragedies of this region, and perhaps of other places in the world as well, is when a leader or a regime heap praise on themselves, or are turned into demigods by the people. This leads to

disaster. It is not our way to do things. I believe in honesty, openness, and cooperation.

[Stern] How are the relations between your advisers and your prime minister and his cabinet?

[Husayn] Before anything gets an official stamp of approval, it must be decided upon by the cabinet, which is elected by the parliament. Laws have to go through parliament before they are passed. Afterward, they go to the senate, which is an elected body. By the time the bills reach me, there should be no problems left, and I approve them. On a few rare occasions, I had to say "no," and then everyone had to sit down together and work out a solution.

[Stern] What is the role of your brother, Crown Prince Hasan?

[Husayn] He has been of great help to me over the years. When I was much younger, and facing a threat as usual, I was very concerned about the future. My own children were very young then, and I thought of how vague and uncertain the future would be if anything happened to me. So I did something very out of the ordinary. We talked things over, and I appointed Hasan the crown prince. He is like a son to me, and he has all the qualities to enable him to make a large contribution to Jordan's development. He is a university graduate, involved in the country's economic and political life and in the planning of its future. He is another driving force, next to me.

[Stern] Does he concern himself with domestic issues while you focus on foreign affairs?

[Husayn] Not necessarily. I think we both deal with the same things. We are very coordinated.

[Stern] Many leaders are greatly influenced by their wives. You have been married four times. Did any of your wives play a part in political decisionmaking? Do you discuss affairs of state with them?

[Husayn] Not particularly. I never felt I had the right to involve others, no matter how near to me, in all my affairs. Those who could, helped me of course, and are still helping me. There is no one in the world with whom I can discuss problems frankly. The burden is too big, and I am prepared to bear it alone. That is how it is, that is how I am.

[Stern] How much power does the king of Jordan have?

[Husayn] As much as he is granted by the residents of Jordan. It is mainly about the power to persuade.

[Stern] Jordan is a small and vulnerable country. What are its special problems?

[Husayn] Scant resources. One must remember that we are a people that have suffered. The Arab-Israeli conflict, for example, has caused us many problems. The incidents that took place in the region over the past two years also affected us. We have always tried to stick to our principles and ideals. Sometimes this makes us feel isolated in a world where interests take the top priority. Nevertheless, we take a long-range view of things and believe that this is the best attitude.

[Stern] What are the principles that guide you?

[Husayn] People should be treated equally. Issues should receive equal treatment. For example, we accepted Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967. The resolution's introduction prohibits the continued occupation of territories seized by war. We adopted a similar position with regard to Cyprus and the Falkland Islands. We could not alter our position even in the case of Kuwait. We opposed the military offensive against Kuwait, and we opposed its conquest and annexation. Our attempts to oppose it through peaceful means were misunderstood for a long time. However, I believe that will pass and people will understand that we sought to protect lives and rectify the situation in a peaceful manner, and not in a way that would endanger lives, resources, and even the environment, which is a topic I personally take an interest in.

[Stern] You used two words: principles and interests. Other leaders often sacrifice principles for the sake of interests. Are you an exception?

[Husayn] I do not know whether I am an exception, but I prefer to live at peace with my conscience, rather than anything else. After all, we insisted on our principles in almost every issue so far.

[Stern] Your regime has been predominantly pro-Western. Why? Does this not exact a price? I mean, has it not caused you to be unpopular with many Arab nationalists?

[Husayn] In my blood, my soul, and my heart, I feel that Arab nationalism means freedom, along with interaction with the rest of the world. That is why I did not give in to all those who tried to make the Arab world subordinate to another power. We did it because we believed it was the right thing for the nation, and because we believed we belong to a family of free nations.

[Stern] How often have you been forced to make particularly difficult decisions? How did you prepare for them? When I asked former Turkish leader Bulent Ecevit, he said he used to turn to classical poetry, and when I asked former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, he replied he turns to music. And you?

[Husayn] I enjoy music very much, but I take a long time to make important decisions. I do my homework very thoroughly before I discuss problems with Jordanian officials. On some nights, I go to bed with the problems, I dream of them, I wake up with them, and then I feel even more tired. Responsibility is a very heavy burden.

[Stern] You go out to the desert. Do you do it in moments of great tension?

[Husayn] I go there to visit people, to change the atmosphere. I believe I rode my motorbike more often this past year than ever before. I found out that when the pressure is heavy and intensive, that is my best way to concentrate, to forget the problem for a while. I know when I am tired, I know when I need time out or a vacation, but unfortunately, taking time out is not easy, and I therefore look for other things to do. I fly a plane, call friends around the world on my radio, and then I return to the problem and try to tackle it with the help of others.

[Stern] One of the most fateful decisions you ever made was to join your Arab neighbors in a coalition against Israel in June 1967. This had, of course, disastrous consequences for Jordan. You lost your Air Force, thousands of soldiers, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. How did this war come about in your opinion? Did you have any doubts before joining in?

[Husayn] I had very serious doubts, but I had a commitment to the Arab League. We had a mutual defense agreement. I well knew what the results of the war would be, just as I later foresaw the results of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. At that time, Arab leaders held a summit meeting at which Arab military experts reached the conclusion that from the viewpoint of the balance of power, the Arab world lags behind Israel. They estimated that to reach parity with Israel, the Arabs would require at least one and a half years, and even that only provided the entire Arab world united for that purpose. I was in al-'Aqabah when I heard that late President al-Nasir closed the straits and moved troops into the Sinai. I said: "Here, it is about to happen." We had always believed we were one nation, and that a country facing a threat would be able to deal with it only through the Arab League pact and mutual defense agreements. I went to Cairo and talked to the late al-Nasir, and later I was forced to turn over the command of the Jordanian armed forces to the joint Arab command—which was really the Egyptian command—just as the Syrians did. The war broke out a few days later. Our worst suspicions and fears came true in the 1967 disaster.

[Stern] Did you know in advance that you would lose?

[Husayn] Yes. We knew that.

[Stern] You assert then that the defeat was inevitable.

[Husayn] Yes, it was a situation in which victory was impossible.

[Stern] Would you make the same decision again?

[Husayn] Israel was going to move in anyway. We had to respond to Israel's attack on Egypt, since Egypt controlled our forces—otherwise Jordan would have disintegrated. Unfortunately, this was our position. It happened again in the recent disaster in the Gulf. Again, we did not know, we were not involved, it happened. We had to do all we could to prevent the situation from deteriorating. That is why I felt more strongly than ever that such mistakes can be prevented only if Jordan serves as an example from which others can learn. Such mistakes have happened in our region, they happened in Germany at one time, they happened elsewhere—it is time for them to stop.

[Stern] But you have also said that to a great extent, Jordan depends on outside developments.

[Husayn] It did happen in the past, but Jordan stood proud and did its best. I remember 1967. I toured the troops, and I told them: "I believe a war is imminent, and we are the main target. You will have to do your best." Unfortunately, I witnessed the destruction of both the Jordanian Army and the West Bank, as well as the undoing of everything we had built for 15 years.

[Stern] Did you tell al-Nasir that you thought he was making a mistake?

[Husayn] I spelled the matter out plainly. I definitely did. It was pretty obvious. The decision to go ahead—to fall into the pitfall—was made a year and a half before the military arrangements, which were supposed to achieve us parity with Israel, were introduced. What else could we expect?

[Stern] You helped draft UN Resolution 242, which calls on Israel to leave the occupied territories in return for Arab recognition. What did you understand the term "the occupied territories" to mean? All of them? Most? Some?

[Husayn] I understood it to mean all of them. I understood that in the West Bank, which was part of Jordan, insignificant border amendments were possible, because after all, it was the cease fire line rather than an international border, as was the case with the other Arab states. As for Jerusalem, I fought for its becoming a united city without borders, for its being a symbol.

[Stern] Did you think the Israelis would accept Resolution 242?

[Husayn] Both the Egyptians and we spoke with Americans at the highest echelons at that time. They were led to believe that the resolution would be implemented within six months.

[Stern] In the wake of unrest in the region over the past 40 years, an increasing number of Palestinians have fled to Jordan where they take an active part in Jordan's political and economic life. Why did you act against the PLO in September 1970, launching what is often termed "Black September?"

[Husayn] At that time, the Palestinians and the Jordanians were indistinguishable. I believe there were both Palestinians and Jordanians on each side. I tried to avert a clash in any way I could, but I had to choose between chaos, anarchy, and the absolute destruction of the country, or law and order. The supporters of law and order triumphed in the end.

[Stern] Was not the outcome of "Black September" harmful to your standing as the West Bank Palestinians' spokesman?

[Husayn] Beyond my immediate responsibility, I never professed to be their spokesman. When the right moment came up—in the wake of a Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim demand—we handed over the responsibility to them, and we supported them. We feel closer to them than to any other nation in the Arab world, and we always will. We are one family. I think many mistakes were made in the past. This is one chapter we would like to close, to leave behind.

[Stern] Talks about peace in the region are being held. Does Jordan still play an important role in the peace process, and if it does, what role?

[Husayn] We have been told that we are a primary, vital, and crucial axis of the peace process. We believe the chance is there. Our future and that of the Palestinians are intertwined as in the past. I believe we are in the midst of a quest for a comprehensive peace requiring the involvement of all the countries connected to the conflict. There must be a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian aspect of the problem. The Palestinian side will be represented by Palestinians who were elected by Palestinians. We, Jordanians, will deal with our problems with Israel, while we will have to deal with other issues, such as the water problem and other rights, together. There are also the multilateral talks. In my view, this is a most significant development. Peace is the solution.

[Stern] You have held your position for 39 years. You are one of the most veteran leaders in the world. Considering the fact that some people doubted your ability to survive for even 39 days, how did you do it?

[Husayn] I really do not know. I assume it must have been the will of God.

[Stern] They say power corrupts. Did it have a corruptive effect on you, or did you manage to avoid it?

[Husayn] I believe power tends to corrupt weak people. I have noticed that the greatest people I met in my life were modest. Weak and insecure people use power as a shield behind which they hide.

[Stern] Will royalty survive you?

[Husayn] I hope Jordan will survive. That is what matters.

[Stern] What is the achievement you are most proud of?

[Husayn] There is not any specific achievement I can point to. I am proud to be Jordanian, to be part of this country, to be part of the struggle of this nation which I have always loved and been proud to belong to.

[Stern] What was Jordan's biggest mistake?

[Husayn] I think that if mistakes happen, they do not result from any conscious desire to make them. We live in a dangerous and complicated region. If there are mistakes, they do not result only from Jordan. Of course many errors are made, but others can see them better than we can.

[Stern] What will history books write about you?

[Husayn] I hope they will judge in my favor, not against me. I have aspired to that all my life, and as a man who has done his best, I hope history will judge me favorably.

*King Husayn To Meet 'Arafat

93P40032A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 92 p 2

[Excerpt] Amman—Informed sources in Amman mentioned yesterday that a Jordanian-Palestinian summit will be held in Amman at the beginning of next week [Sunday].

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the summit between King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will focus on exchanging views on the results of the first stage of the seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations held recently in Washington, particularly the Jordanian-Israeli agreement plan on the agenda for their bilateral talks.

The summit will also discuss ways to strengthen Jordanian-Palestinian coordination during the next peace negotiations sessions that will be held in Washington Monday. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Reacts to Clinton's Election

NC0411141992 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Commenting on the results of the U.S. elections as far as the Middle East is concerned, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has told our radio that the question of Arab-Israeli negotiations is among the constant issues in U.S. policy.

He added, however, that perhaps Clinton is more sympathetic to Israel, at least in his style of direction [tariqat al-ikhraj]. He added: I have not found a U.S. President who has given Israel as much as President Bush did. But, we are a people whose ideas and opinions change according to the change in director. He added: The story changes according to the way it is directed and the way it attracts the masses. I am afraid the question is simply a change of directors, not the hero, the main characters, or the outcome of the story.

Lebanese Forces Commander Visits Prime Minister

NC0511080492 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Media sources reported yesterday that Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' visited Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Quraytim yesterday. He was accompanied by Mr. Zahi al-Bustani.

Fadlallah Rules Out 'Radical Change'

NC0511075992 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the situation in Lebanon will remain the same. He added that this is because the room within which officials could move does not permit a radical change, at least not in the near future, unless there are invisible factors, such as launching and reactivating the Arab and international fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon and boosting European and U.S. assistance to Lebanon.

Fadlallah asked why the major states, particularly the United States, refuse to provide aid to Lebanon. He continued: So long as Israel remains in the south and western al-Biqa', the border strip is under its influence, many people wager on Israel and world changes, and the region is replete with changes, Lebanon will not be the first country to resolve its problem. Instead, it will be the last to resolve its problem, provided this problem and the stage it is passing through remain the same, he added.

In an interview with our radio, al-Sayyid Fadlallah stressed that the Lebanese question is still subject to the plan drawn up by foreign powers in their bid to establish a new formula and a certain order for the future of the region, a plan that could guarantee stability of the interests of the major countries, foremost of which is the United States. He added: There is no chance for Lebanon or for any political quarter in it to feel comfortable. The story, he added, is to keep the Lebanese preoccupied with their own affairs so as not to think of the greater horizons. He added: We feel that Lebanon is prohibited from becoming economically secure and its people from becoming united. He asked: What has changed and why is there this euphoria of optimism? Did Lebanon stop serving as an element for generating some pressures in the region to serve the international game? Have the world powers started to think that the Lebanese people are polite, reasonable, realistic, and tame enough to be given encouraging prizes? Did Lebanon cease to be an element of disturbance to the powers that have concerns over their designs? We do not feel that anything has changed in the bilateral negotiations or in the U.S. flirtation with certain Arab states. There is a process of pulling and pushing, advancing and retreating at the political level in Lebanon and in its relation with a number of quarters in the region, he added. Nothing has changed in the region either, which is passing through a period of political stagnation, a vicious circle, and an impasse. So why should only Lebanon's problem be resolved?

Regarding the reason for this, 'Allamah Fadlallah said that there is one constant political factor in the Lebanese crisis; namely, that Lebanon is pushed with its problems and complications nearly to the point of collapse. When it approaches the abyss, the invisible powers that created Lebanon and that influence many of the parties that represent the tools of its problem interfere to prevent the collapse. The current shock, he added, is meant to bring Lebanon back safely to its bases, thus alleviating some of its problems and organizing some of its affairs so that the country may not burn and in the meantime introducing some changes in style and methods.

Commenting on calls for separating the Lebanese crisis from the regional crisis, Fadlallah said that this is like trying to separate heat from fire. The heat and the fire, he added, are inseparable.

On the new Lebanese Government and the number of technocrats and specialists in it, 'Allamah Fadlallah said: I do not believe that the issue should be viewed from this angle. What is required is for the government to give the impression that the presence of specialists who have experience in the country's affairs will give the people confidence that their problems will be solved. However, he added, the problem is not that we do not have experience in understanding the problems, but that we do not have freedom of movement in resolving them. Thus, there is one thing that the government can give to the people; namely, to be clean-handed, serious in tackling administrative problems, and to supervise the spending and tax-collection processes. He added: Apart from everything, this government is meant to be harmonious and like-minded to avoid any opposition by anyone. He added: Opposition from within the government will not be permitted, because what is required is

for the government, like the Chamber of Deputies and the presidency, to receive inspiration from without.

Deputies Oppose Proposal for Exceptional Powers

NC0511091992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] A proposal to grant the government exceptional powers is the focus of interest in the Lebanese arena in light of the emergence of some opposing parliamentary stands. Prime Minister al-Hariri wants these privileges because he believes they are necessary to guarantee his government's course of action.

The Bloc of Loyalty to the Resistance held its periodic meeting yesterday afternoon in the presence of all its members. It discussed the subject of parliamentary committees and the points of the ministerial statement currently being drafted that have already been declared. The Bloc believes the government should adhere to a clear and frank text adopting and supporting the rights of the Lebanese people in resisting the Zionist occupation until all occupied territories are liberated.

The Bloc addressed the issue of exceptional powers and categorically rejected granting the government such powers. This constitutes a clear stripping of the powers, role, and duties entrusted on the Chamber by the Lebanese people, who did not give it the right to forfeit them. Furthermore, it is unconstitutional because the Constitution stipulates that no law can be passed without the approval of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Bloc of Loyalty to the Resistance believes that if the Chamber relinquished some of its powers to the government, this would contribute toward strengthening the position of those casting doubts on the Chamber's legitimacy and its qualification to carry out its natural function.

On this subject, Deputy Shaykh Khadr Tulays made a statement in which he said: It is neither correct nor wise for the new Chamber of Deputies to launch its activities by granting part of its powers to the government, thus stripping itself of part of its role as observer and judge of the government's performance and the practices of its ministers.

Deputy Shaykh Khadr Tulays does not believe deputies have the right to relinquish any of the powers they were entrusted with and elected for by the people. These powers were placed in their hands to allow the deputies to take to account ministers and other officials who should be taken to account. Deputies are also supposed to be the trustees of the role conferred on them.

Shaykh Khadr Tulays asked how someone could express fear of the new Chamber before it actually started operating. He believes it is not logical for this Chamber to be judged in accordance with the performance of the previous Chamber. Therefore, it is unfair for the people in power to strip the deputies of their natural rights and the Chamber of its existence at the beginning of the road.

Deputy Tulays sees these steps as plots being hatched behind the scenes. He expressed his surprise over demands for exceptional powers that annul the authority of the Chamber of Deputies and turn it into a mere witness of some major violations that might take place, despite the fact that the Chamber's duty is to inspect the government's practices in the various administrations, how it spends the budget, etc. He stressed that this is unacceptable and considered it an insult to the deputies of the new Chamber because demanding some of the Chamber's powers means among other things, casting doubts on the results of the parliamentary elections, especially amid the confusion created by the opposition.

Deputy Shaykh Tulays concluded his statement by saying he believes the idea of granting the government exceptional powers is political and legal heresy. He said he hoped this would not be the beginning of a slippery road ahead for the country's new political course.

Maronite Bishops Criticize New Government

NC0411151992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The Maronite Bishops Council has said that this government—despite the consultations and bargaining that accompanied its formation—demonstrated to the Lebanese people that their national will is mortgaged and they have no say. It has said that discrimination in dealing with citizens, particularly between opponents and supporters, is not a healthy sign in a democratic country that cherishes human rights. It said that the past few days' events in southern Lebanon require officials to take drastic action on the situation and not be content to lodge a complaint with the United Nations.

The Maronite Bishops Council stressed that the emphasis on abolishing political sectarianism in people's minds before crossing it out in texts constitutes an imbalance in the bases on which Lebanon was built. The council congratulated the American people on their new president, wishing him success in addressing Middle East issues and helping Lebanon to restore its sovereignty, decisionmaking, and independence.

'Harmful' Effects of Election Boycott Noted

NC0511093192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] In an interview with AL-DIYAR today, Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah wonders whether the decision to boycott the parliamentary elections was useful or harmful in general and not only on the level of the Phalangist Party. He said that the Phalangist Party's representative to the meetings that used to be held with the opposition forces drew attention to the harmful effects of the elections boycott. He said that if the efforts that were made to boycott the elections

were made to obstruct the election law, we would have possibly realized a great achievement.

Sa'adah explained that the Phalangist Party believes that the new parliament lacks representational capacity but is not illegitimate. He said that the parties' struggle is not confined to their presence inside the parliament or the government, pointing out that the Phalangist Party was outside the government during the last phases of President Franjiyah's regime and throughout President Sarkis' era due to the imposed veto.

Sa'adah emphasized the need to achieve national reconciliation. Regarding the abolition of political sectarianism, he said it is everyone's goal, but the present demand for its abolition is sectarian and stems from sectarian motives.

Israeli Shelling, Sniper Fire in South Reported

NC0411172692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The Israeli occupation troops at 1600 this afternoon shelled the eastern hills of Kafr Rumman, Hayy al-Maslakh, upper al-Nabatiyah hills, and the vicinity of the Lebanese Army's abandoned barracks in al-Nabatiyah with 120-mm mortars and incendiary bombs. Main and side streets of Kafr Rumman came under intense sniper fire, which reached the house of Deputy 'Abd-al-Latif al-Zayn, wounding one of the workers in the house, a woman named Zaynab Jabir. She was taken to the hospital for treatment. As of 1700 this afternoon, the shelling and sniper fire continues in the area. The shelling brought life in Kafr Rumman to a standstill and a feeling of tension prevails.

Clinton Urged To Take 'Evenhanded Approach'

JN0411164392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Having unseated George Bush in the U.S. presidential election, Bill Clinton will now take over from the incumbent President. Given the weight the United States wields globally, Washington's key role as cosponsor of the Middle East peace process, the U.S. initiative that launched the peace process, and the long-standing special U.S.-Israeli relationship, many questions naturally arise. Regardless of who actually sits in the White House or how Washington views the world, it is incumbent on the Arabs to get together and work to advance their national and pan-Arab interests. Only through a united Arab front can we hope to advance our rights and interests; whether it was George Bush or Bill Clinton who made it to the White House should make no difference to us. However, we can only hope that the President- elect will prove an honest broker in the Middle East, and that when he is officially inaugurated, he will come to comprehend the ins and outs of the Arab-Israeli dispute so that he may be in a position to propel the peace process forward and honor Washington's commitment to peace and security in the region.

Some Arabs—disregarding the numerous gains made available to Israel by the Bush administration—have wrongly presumed that the reelection of President Bush would have guaranteed a successful and equitable peace process. It was the Bush administration that released the loan guarantees to Israel; it was the Bush administration that promised to maintain Israel's military edge over the Arabs; and no other U.S. Administration has been nearly as generous and forthcoming toward Israel as the Bush administration—in terms of funds and weaponry, as well as material and moral support. It was the Bush administration that presided over the abrogation by the United Nations of a UN resolution equating Zionism with racism; it was the Bush administration that moved to facilitate the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and provided for their settlement and absorption there; it was the Bush administration that contributed directly or indirectly to the transport of Falasha Jews to Israel. The point we are trying to make is that we can never count on the support of any U.S. president. All we can ask of a U.S. president is to take an evenhanded approach to our conflict with Israel as we seek to retrieve our territory and rights. That can happen only if the Arabs address themselves to the world, and the United States in particular, as a single bloc with one voice. After all, we enjoy the support of the world community and international legitimacy that pursues justice and a fair and comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH Views Clinton Election Victory

JN0511100192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH's editorial today comments on Bill Clinton's election as U.S. president for the next four years. The paper says: It is appropriate to recall the Arab-Israeli conflict, whose details are known to the U.S. officials more than anyone else, especially since the peace talks, which started last year in Madrid and which are still going on in Washington, were launched principally at the U.S. initiative. The basic slogan of that initiative was land for peace and the implementation of the international resolutions pertaining to that conflict, particularly Resolutions 383 and 242.

AL-BA'TH adds: If President-Elect Clinton and his political team devote some time to the conflict in the region, and especially to what happened in the peace talks over the past year, they will certainly come out with the conclusion that the Arabs have offered everything possible to achieve the just and comprehensive peace, while the Israeli attitude in these talks has always been obstructive to any progress toward the just and comprehensive peace.

The paper wonders what the new U.S. Administration's position on these talks will be. It asks: Will it be more understanding of the nature of the conflict, and will it deal with this issue on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the need to implement them in order to entrench and bolster the principle of international legitimacy?

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: It is useful to recall this subject, because it is the most important as far as we are concerned. It is also useful to underline the basic principles of the settlement, represented in the need for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories as a primary precondition for a just settlement.

Afghanistan

Leadership Discusses Constituent Council

LD0411194192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The session of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], chaired by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the ISA, was held on 4 November at Golkhana Palace, headquarters of the Presidency. The Leadership Council discussed the country's urgent issues, including the convocation of the constituent council.

Esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayd Mohammad Ali Jawid, acting spokesman of the Leadership Council, said the following to BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] concerning the resolutions of this session:

At today's session of the Leadership Council it was decided that the commission on the convocation of the constituent council is to continue its work under the leadership of esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Shah Fazli, chief justice of the Supreme Court, and he will supervise all the work of this commission. At today's session of the Leadership Council, talks were also held on the convocation of the constituent council (?as soon as possible). The place for the convocation of the constituent council was chosen by majority vote.

Hekmatyar Forces Keep Food Convoys From Kabul

LD0411155792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami during the past three days have prevented trucks carrying foodstuffs and fuel from reaching Kabul. According to our correspondent's report from Kabul, a spokesman for the Afghan government warned that if the situation were allowed to continue, Kabul would face serious shortages.

Hekmatyar has said that the consignments might be used by the military and for this reason he is preventing them from moving toward Kabul.

Hekmatyar Said To Oppose Rabbani's Extension

BK0411121792 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 4 Nov 92 p1

[Text] Kabul. Nov.3—Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan [HEA] (Hekmatyar) was against the extension in the tenure of the present government because, according to the Peshawar Accord, Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani should have quit the government on the expiry of his tenure on October 27, 1992.

This was stated by Mr. Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, a representative of HEA (Hekmatyar) while talking to newsmen last evening.

He pledged there was no mention of any extension in the present regime in the Peshawar declaration of April 24, this year.

Mr. Arghandiwal, who represented his party in the leadership council meeting in which extension was granted to the present regime for another 45 days said that Prof. Rabbani, who was supposed to surrender power in the said meeting, declined to do so. "At the very outset of the said meeting, he was insisting on extension in his tenure till the formation of Shura Ahl-e Hal wa Agd [Council of Solution and Settlement]," he claimed.

Hekmatyar Receives Peace Council Delegation

LD0511000492 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Mojahed Brother Hekmatyar met the delegation of the Nangarhar Peace Council yesterday in the south of Kabul city.

A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent, quoting a spokesman of the Hezb-e's head office, reports that Mojahed Brother Hekmatyar received the delegation of the Nangarhar Peace Council yesterday at 1100 at a Jehadi headquarters located in the south of Kabul. At this meeting, talks were held on [words indistinct] of the coalition government and the total withdrawal and disarming of the militias.

On behalf of the coalition administration, the delegation once again assured Mojahed Brother Hekmatyar about the withdrawal of glimjam militias and other communists from Kabul, their removal from power, and their disarming.

Rabbani, Pakistani Envoy Discuss Ties

LD0411232492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, Leadership Council chairman and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this morning Mr. Amir Usman, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kabul. The meeting was held at Golkhana Palace, the headquarters of the Presidency.

A BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] correspondent reports that esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani and the Pakistani ambassador spoke about subjects of mutual interest at this meeting and, in particular, spoke about the acceleration of the transport of foodstuffs and petroleum to the country. He emphasized further consolidation of fraternal relations between the two countries' Muslim peoples. Mr. Amir Usman, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Islamic Republic

of Pakistan, in congratulating esteemed Prof. Rabbani on the occasion of the extension of his term of office, assured Borhanoddin Rabanni of his efforts to broaden and accelerate his country's aid to Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister, President Greet Bill Clinton

BK0411155692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] World leaders have congratulated Mr. Bill Clinton on his election victory. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, in her congratulatory message, has expressed the hope that under the leadership of Mr. Clinton, the United States will continue to play a dynamic role in the promotion of world peace, stability, justice, and economic and social progress. She said the existing warm, understanding, and close cooperation between Bangladesh and the United States will acquire greater depth and dimension in the years to come under the leadership of Mr. Clinton.

President Abdul Rahman Biswas has also sent a similar message to the U.S. president elect.

Talks Held With PRC Vice Foreign Minister

BK0411162892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Bangladesh and China have held detailed talks on bilateral, regional, and international issues in Dhaka today. Foreign Secretary Riaz Rahman led the Bangladesh side while Chinese Vice Minister Xu Dunxin headed his country's side at the talks. A Foreign Office spokesman said the two sides stressed the need for periodic consultations between the two friendly countries on matters of mutual interest. During the talks, the Chinese vice foreign minister said his government would utilize its close relationship with Myanmar [Burma] to persuade the Myanmar authorities toward speedy repatriation of Rohingya refugees. The two sides also discussed ways to reduce trade imbalance with Bangladesh and bilateral cooperation. Bangladesh thanked China for its two credit advances each amounting to U.S. $5.5 million.

World Bank Demand on Social Cuts Opposed

BK0311161092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Nov 92

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] is set to reject any pressure of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to cut funds on poverty alleviation programs in the region. If the SAARC members adopt the collective strategy, it is going to seek more assistance from the funding agencies, a 14-member South Asian Commission said in Colombo yesterday. The commission is headed by the former Nepalese prime minister, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. Vice chairman of the commission, Poorna Wignaraja, told reporters that the body recommended to SAARC members states—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka—that they should reject demands to slash social budgets. Wignaraja said structural changes without social lift of the 450 million poverty stricken people in South Asia could lead to serious violence and put democracy at risk. It will be simply unmanageable, the vice chairman of the South Asian Commission said. But he made it clear that the commission's strategy is one of cooperation not confrontation. Wignaraja hoped that the World Bank and the IMF would learn a lesson. They cannot come and tell us to open the economy like South Korea, he said. The South Commission official said the commission is trying to tap (?excess) resources from other regions to pull South Asia out of the poverty trap and Japan has been targeted as a potential source. The commission will arm the governments of South Asia to better negotiate with the IMF and the World Bank, they said, (?terming) members of the commission as intellectual guerrillas in the war against poverty.

The South Asian Commission was, in fact, set up to help alleviate grinding poverty of millions of people in the world's most populated region. It held a series of deliberations in the SAARC capitals and is composed of economists and social scientists from the seven- member states of the regional grouping. It is expected that the seventh SAARC summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka from December 12th next will ratify the recommendations of the South Commission already finalized. The final report is expected to make country to country recommendations.

The government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has accorded topmost priority to poverty alleviation programs in the country. Even the finance minister, M. Saifur Rahman, is on record as having warned against wholesale structural reforms as suggested by the World Bank and the IMF. Total withdrawal of subsidies from key social sectors will not only increase the level of poverty in the country, but also frustrate the welfare-oriented policies of the government elected through popular vote, economists in Bangladesh have time and again cautioned. The government is currently negotiating with them to relax stringent terms so that it can work for economic emancipation of the people. The situation in the country is grim and according to official statistics there are an estimated 20 million landless people in Bangladesh. A seminar in Dhaka was told yesterday that about three million youths in the South Asian countries are becoming unemployed every year. The government is aware of this and has drawn up comprehensive programs for poverty alleviation. That is exactly why Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has announced remission of farm loans up to 5,000 taka and waste development tax after 25 bighas [five-eighths of an acre].

It is expected that SAARC heads of state and government will give serious consideration to the recommendations of the South Commission as the regional grouping itself was conceived by Shaid [martyred] President Ziaur Rahman in 1985. There must be joint collaboration in this regard as conditions in all the seven SAARC countries are similar. It, indeed, augurs well that Japan has hinted at its readiness to provide funds to different poverty alleviation programs in the SAARC countries. It is hoped that the other industrialized countries will come forward in providing assistance as abject poverty breeds instability leading to collapse of newly established democracies in countries of South Asia.

Industrial Production Declines in 3d Quarter

BK0311161192 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Oct 92 p 1, 10

[Text] A quarterly review of the country's economic situation revealed that overall trend in the micro-sectors continued to remain destabilized with decline in production nearly in all domestic market-oriented industries, reports UNB [United News of Bangladesh].

Except pharmaceuticals, fertilizer and petroleum products, industrial production in July-September period of 1992-1993 showed a declining growth compared to the corresponding period of the previous fiscal [year], said the review of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) made available to UNB on Wednesday.

It is 6.07 percent for jute goods, 22.47 percent for cotton textiles, 41 percent for cement and 14.91 percent for cigarettes.

Fertilizer, steel and paper products have, however, grown significantly, registering growth of 30.39 percent, 79 percent and 24.23 percent respectively.

The review referred to a survey, conducted by the Chamber, which revealed smuggling, market shrinkage, labor unrest, power failures and increasing cost of imports to be the leading factors affecting the industrial growth.

All the 63 entrepreneurs representing different sectors, including those from export industries, interviewed by MCCI, expressed the common view that lack of coordination between economic ministries and agencies was posing serious difficulties in the economic front.

"Everyone stated that lack of coordination was not only defeating the government's business-friendly policies but also giving mixed signals to the business community making them hesitant to take any initiatives", the MCCI review said quoting the survey.

The chamber observed that although export sector fetched 620.25 million US dollars during the July-September quarter, almost equalling the target for the period, the export industries have been further marginalized by competitors from neighbouring countries.

Owners of the export industries complained of harassment by the customs authorities, delays in refund of duty-drawback, labor problems, power failures, transport and port delays, and price uncompetitiveness vis-a-vis exporters from neighbouring countries.

Labor indiscipline and power failures were quoted by all the entrepreneurs surveyed, irrespective of domestic market oriented industries and export industries, as the two common problems affecting their business.

At the macro-level of the economy, the MCCI review found some signs of improvement with a record foreign exchange reserve, increased remittance inflow, satisfactory revenue collection, and low rate of inflation.

Foreign exchange reserve at the end of September stood at 1,720 million US dollars, an increase of about 70 percent over the same period last year. The rate of inflation stabilized at 4.8 percent compared to 5 percent in the last fiscal.

Wage earners' remittances totalled 224 million US dollars in the first quarter of the current fiscal compared to 190 million in the previous year. Revenue collections during the period increased by 23.47 percent to Taka 1,809 crore.

Imports during the period are likely to be around 800 million US dollars—an increase by 19.23 percent over the dollars worth of imports that were made. Industrial imports during the July-September quarter are estimated at 480 million dollars against 445 million in the same period of last fiscal.

Export sector earned 620.45 million US dollars during the quarter, 0.73 percent short of the target for the period of 625 million. But the earnings registered a 27.75 percent increase over that of the corresponding period of 1991-1992.

Major traditional items, including raw jute, leather and tea, have failed to meet the proportionate earning target during the period. But frozen food showed a spectacular recovery registering a 56 percent increase over the earnings of the corresponding period of last fiscal.

International price of jute, leather and tea fell significantly during the period.

Average per bale price of raw jute in the quarter declined to 68.66 US dollars from 80.71 dollars in July-September 1991. Unit prices of leather and tea declined respectively by 22.63 percent and 15.29 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

India

Rao Congratulates Clinton on Election

BK0411153092 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1449 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Democratic candidate Bill Clinton has won U.S. presidential election. Though official announcement is

yet to come in, television projections indicate that Clinton has won in more than thirty states. PM [Prime Minister] has sent following message to president elect:

"Please accept my warmest felicitations on your resounding victory in the presidential election. Your campaign for the presidency has been followed by millions in India with great enthusiasm and hope for the future of relations between our two nations. Jawahar Lal Nehru and John Kennedy shared a vision of forging closer ties between the two largest democracies in the world. The post-cold war era provides an unprecedented opportunity to translate this vision into an enduring relationship based on mutual interests, trust and shared responsibility. We know you share this view. Today, India has embarked on the road to greater economic liberalisation. The United States of America is India's largest trading partner and the foremost foreign investor. Yet, only a fraction of the enormous potential for bilateral economic collaboration has been realised. There is much we can do together. When two large and vibrant democracies interact, it is realistic to expect differing perceptions on some issues of mutual concern. These do not undermine the many values the United States of America and India jointly cherish. We share the goals of promoting the ideals of democracy, an equitable multilateral trading system and a more secure world where strife and tension are minimised. I look forward to working with you in imparting fresh impetus and a new dynamism to the long-standing friendship between our two nations. With my personal regards and best wishes to you and Mrs. Clinton."

Talks With Pakistan Make 'Satisfactory Progress'

BK0411161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The defense secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan on the Siachen issue continued in New Delhi for the third day today. According to Defense Ministry sources, there has been satisfactory progress in the talks which were held in a cordial atmosphere. The Pakistan defense secretary, Mr. S.S.A. Gilani, will stay on in India to supervise the talks on the Sir Creek issue being resumed in the capital tomorrow. The Indian side at the two-day talks will be led by Mr. Nareshwar Dayal, additional secretary in the External Affairs Ministry; while Mr. Khalid Salim, additional foreign secretary, will head the Pakistani delegation. The meeting on the Sir Creek issue is in pursuance of the agreement reached at the foreign secretary-level talks between the two countries held in August this year.

Talks on Disputes Viewed

BK0511092192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Commentary by Defense Analyst Uday Bhaskar]

[Text] The sixth round of talks between the defense secretaries of India and Pakistan on the troubled Siachen glacier issue has concluded. As is to be expected when dealing with such a complex issue, both sides have agreed to aim for a comprehensive resolution as they revert to their respective governments. Following the talks on Siachen, the two neighbors will commence their deliberations on the Sir Creek in the capital today. This creek flows into the Arabian sea and has nothing to do with the glacier. But both issues need to be addressed satisfactorily if Indo-Pak relations are to stabilize in a meaningful manner in a changed regional and global environment.

The Siachen glacier, which ranges in height from 18,000 to 20,000 feet, is the highest battlefield in the world. While this is a tribute to the tenacity of the fighting troops on both sides that they are able to operate in temperatures that drop to minus 50 degree celsius, the need to resolve this thorny issue through dialogue cannot be overemphasized. While the exact nature of the proposals that will help move toward a comprehensive resolution have not been made public, it is to be expected that the demarcation of the yellow sea or the Line of Control will be of significance to both nations.

India has been steadfast in basing its claim to Siachen on the terms of accession of the erstwhile princely states at the time of partition as also the internationally accepted natural principle of following the crest line of ridges, in this case, the Saltoro ridge. Siachen has already cost both nations dearly in terms of human lives and related resources. In aiming for a satisfactory solution here, both nations would be making incremental and desirable progress in working out the larger issue of Kashmir and the accepted yellow sea which is the prerequisite for stabilizing and improving Indo-Pak relations. In like fashion, the Sir Creek talks will help to create the basis for the demarcation of the maritime boundary between India and Pakistan. Whether on land or at sea, the demarcation of a boundary is an imperative for amity and good neighborliness. One can only hope that the next round of talks in Islamabad will consolidate the progress made in New Delhi.

Mualayam Singh Elected Head of Samajwadi Party

BK0411162292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, was elected national president of the newly formed Samajwadi Party at the party convention in Lucknow today. The convention also adopted the party's constitution. It was inaugurated by the West Bengal fisheries development minister, Mr. Kiranmoy Nanda. In a resolution adopted by the convention, the party pledged for 70 percent representation for backward class, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and minorities. The party also resolved to implement the Mandal Commission report.

Iran

Demonstrations End With Resolution on Struggle

LD0411180492 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] A nine-point resolution was read out at the conclusion of today's ceremonies. The resolution stresses the need for continuing the struggle for the realization of the ideals of the imam of the ummah [Khomeyni] and support for the world's oppressed under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the world's Muslims. The Islamic ummah is called upon to safeguard its alertness and unity against the world-devouring America, which is the filthiest enemy of the oppressed.

The resolution refers to the crimes committed against world Muslims, particularly in Palestine, Lebanon, and Bosnia-Hercegovina and calls on the Islamic ummah to decisively resist such crimes and not deny any kind of support for Islamic struggles.

The resolution also voices decisive support for the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials and stresses that the Western cultural onslaught should be decisively confronted and the divine order on the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice should be implemented.

Anniversary of 'Nest of Spies' Occupation Noted

NC0411121492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0450 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. Today, 13 Aban [4 November], has been named The National Day of Struggle Against Arrogance and marks three important incidents in Islamic revolution history. The first incident, considered the prologue to the practical steps taken by the heroic Iranian people's Islamic movement, was the exile of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. The second incident was the martyrdom of Muslim students in 1357 [1978] by the despotic monarchy on charges of defending Islam and freedom—an incident considered effective in helping to reveal the despotic regime's nature and in intensifying the people's struggles. The third incident was the occupation of the American nest of spies by Muslim students following the imam's line, invalidating the policies and propaganda ploys of world arrogance.

From the outset, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni based his struggle on hostility and noncompromise with the arrogance led by America.

Since World War II and during the past few decades, America has resorted to various means against liberation movements worldwide on the pretext of defending human rights and democracy. Now it is trying to exploit the situation that emerged after the defeat of Marxism and the end of the cold war and is—by spreading propaganda slogans extensively—trying to impress upon international public opinion, especially upon Muslims, that the era of ideological movements has ended. This propaganda is occurring when Islamic tendencies in Indonesia, Malaysia, Kashmir, Turkey, and various parts of Africa have taken on new dimensions.

Thinking that by weakening the Islamic Republic as the center of Islamic movements it can bring about a major change in Islam, America resorted to various plots from the start of the Islamic revolution. At the beginning of the revolution, it hatched a coup plot and attempted a military attack on Tabas in a bid to overthrow the Islamic Republic. Then it plotted the unequal war by the Iraqi regime against the newly established Islamic system and throughout the war, we witnessed the arrogant camp often repeat its support for Iraq's aggressive stances. Recently, by resorting to the plot of cultural onslaught, it has been trying to eliminate Islamic thoughts and to inculcate Western culture on this country's youth. This shows the hostilities continuing and the people's alertness to be the best means to neutralize plots.

The documents found in the center of American espionage in Iran reveal facts about the roots of America's arrogant policies. These documents reveal another dimension of American foreign policy and show what democracy means in the American dictionary. These documents, published thanks to the nest of spies' publication center, clarify American outlooks on the Islamic revolution and on other Third World countries. Several documents concern the struggles of the Palestinian people and American policies in support of Zionism and others reveal the methods of American intervention in other countries, namely Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Pakistan, and the East bloc.

The documents found at the nest of spies show the helplessness of this so-called superpower regarding the continuation of the Islamic revolution process, so helpless that—as the Americans themselves confessed—they did not find any rapid or effective solution to prevent the process continuing. In one document, America describes the Islamic Republic's acts as unpredictable. And Iran is presented as a strategic and geopolitical area playing an important role in the compilation of American foreign policy. This area's importance for America is repeated in the nest of spies' documents. Document 14 says Iran's strategic position, relative strength among Persian Gulf countries, and its domestic market have made Iran an extremely significant area.

The arrogant powers' overt hostility and extensive propaganda against the Islamic revolution and Muslims, a genuine example of which we see today in American and Western silence and support for Serb crimes against Bosnia-Hercegovina's Muslims, dictate the people's alertness toward the expansionist policies of the enemies and to the need to carefully observe the esteemed leader's directives more than ever.

The 13 Aban, which led to the disintegration of America's flimsy power, is as auspicious for our nation and the oppressed nations of the world as it is bitter and inauspicious for arrogance.

Results of U.S. Presidential Elections Viewed

LD0411234892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1939 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to dispatches, U.S. President George Bush, in a news conference today, officially accepted defeat in the presidential elections and greeted Democratic Party candidate, Bill Clinton, on his victory. In line with the U.S. elections tradition, while wishing success for Clinton, Bush asked his own supporters to cooperate with Clinton, the next U.S. president. In this way the 12 year rule of the Republicans in the White House has come to an end.

In the opinion of political analysts, various factors were responsible for the defeat of Bush and victory of Clinton. While pointing to most important among them, we must pay attention to the adverse economic situation in America and also to the acute recession currently plaguing its economy.

The four year presidency of George Bush not only failed to overcome the prevailing crisis but also has had further negative impacts in the Americans' lives. During this period the growth rate of the U.S. economy was just 0.7 percent, a figure which is unprecedented since the thirties. From the day George Bush found his way into the White House in 1989, three million people have been added to the number of jobless Americans. Now if we add to this the 325 billion dollar deficit it will depict one of the worst economic eras in America over the past six decades.

On this basis, the Democratic Party, which traditionally bases its election slogans on issues like improvements of the adverse economic condition of the deprived classes and dispensation of social justice, succeeded in securing the votes of the poor and average classes of the American society. Previous record too confirms the fact that whenever economic crises have plagued American society, the Democratic Party has gained larger number of votes. Victory of the Democratic Party in elections of the thirties, also during the Second World War and in the sixties, are clear examples attesting to this reality.

In the midst, the role of the American Zionist, who have influence in most of the U.S. mass communication media, should not be ignored. They had mobilized all of their resources for Clinton's victory in view of his firm stand favoring Israel and indisputably one of the reasons behind the defeat of Bush lay in the loss of the Zionist votes.

Beside this, the weak physique of Bush and incompetence of his deputy [as heard] too, are considered some minor reasons for not securing votes. But in general, according to some political observers, the American capitalists are the main elements controlling the system in that country apparently have preferred for the enforcement of the theory of the new world order that has been mooted at international level in view of the termination of the Cold War era and the dismemberment of the Soviet empire to bring the Democratic Party with some new slogans into the arena. [sentence as heard] In this way they will be able to preoccupy, for quite some time, the Americans' mind by chanting the slogans on backing the deprived masses in a bid to go through the era of the current economic stagnation and also allow the Democratic Party to formulate a new U.S. strategy for enforcing the new world order theory.

In this way America will be able to bring about a new power equation in favor of the American ruling clique at the international level in a manner suited to the new economic conditions possessed by America. Indisputably, the Republican Party, which over the past 12 years have formulated its long term programs on the basis of the previous order, failed to coordinate itself with the new global conditions.

Rebel Radio: 'Irangate' Cause of Bush's Defeat

NC0411215392 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners. As you have heard, the results of the U.S. presidential elections have been announced and it has transpired that the Democratic Party's candidate, Bill Clinton, emerged victorious. Thus, he will take over the reins of power in two months as U.S. President.

Political observers attribute the defeat of the Republicans to the reviving of the Irangate issue, regarding covert arms supplies to the Khomeyni regime when George Bush was U.S. vice president. The covert arms transactions, which are testimony of the filth and dirt of the Khomeyni regime, [words indistinct].

Bush caught up to his rival and the race was neck-and-neck for a while. Pollsters predicted that if Bush kept moving at that pace, he would be victorious in the elections. However, in the past few days, the Democrats played their trump card, one they had saved for the occasion, and rapidly tilted the balance in their favor.

The trump card was a series of documents that prove that as vice president, Bush was aware of the covert arms sales to the Khomeyni regime, and that he had even endorsed them. In attempting to answer how he considered the sale of arms to the most inhuman and loathed contemporary dictatorship legitimate, Bush faced a difficult situation. In his latest interview with CNN, which is viewed by 100 million Americans and hundreds of millions of people worldwide, Bush fumbled for many minutes when trying to answer numerous questions on

this issue. When he tried to answer questions on relations with the Khomeyni regime and [words indistinct] confirming that the so-called moderate (?image of the) Khomeyni regime was chimerical, he conceded that it was a mistake and was something the entire country had (?opposed).

Thus, the view the leader of the resistance, Brother Mojahed Mas'ud Rajavi, has consistently stressed was once again confirmed; that is, that the Khomeyni regime is so filthy and contaminated that anyone in Iran or abroad who joins hands with it or extends assistance to it becomes affected himself.

During one of the (?caucuses) when Bush was addressing a large gathering, a small single-engine plane, owned by the Democrats, flew overhead carrying a banner obviously addressed to Bush. The banner read: Irangate. It was a reference to the covert arms deal with the Khomeyni regime. In this manner, [words indistinct] and the filthy nature of the Khomeyni regime was once again confirmed when this President, who a few years ago was the most popular U.S. president ever, encountered his worst defeat in the U.S. presidential elections.

The accursed dregs of the Khomeyni regime are now apprehensive about the prospect of Clinton's presidential tenure. Some years ago, the minister of the Khomeyni regime [passage indistinct].

Senator Albert Gore, the vice president-elect, signed a statement issued by the majority of the U.S. Senate condemning the Khomeyni regime and expressing support for the just resistance of the Iranian people. As you heard in yesterday's news, he even sent a letter of thanks to the secretary of the International Public Relations Office of the Mojahedin-e Khalq on their meeting, in which he discussed the just resistance of the people of Iran for peace and freedom.

Khamene'i Criticizes 'International Dictatorship'

NC0511085692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0500 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to students in Tehran on 4 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First, I would like to welcome you, the students, the pupils, the teachers, and the nurses for shaping this enthusiastic and sincere gathering. I beseech Almighty God to grant you success in whatever duty you perform or in whatever trench you serve. The day of 13 Aban [4 November] amazingly coincides with three different occasions and is, therefore, an important day in our history. I take this opportunity to discuss a major global pain and a fatal political disease which has been afflicted on mankind today, and many nations are suffering as a result. Incidentally the three events of our history also occurred in connection with the same global disease. The first is the anniversary of the day [in 1963] when the Imam [Khomeyni] was sent into exile. [passage omitted]

The second incident occurred on the same day when the corrupt and tyrannical regime, which was contaminated with the same political disease—which I will explain later—opened fire and martyred several students like you. But at the end, victory was achieved and the justified struggle of the Iranian nation triumphed. The tyrannical and corrupt regime was toppled and America was forced to leave our country.

On another day like today again, the sacred and justice-seeking wrath of a group of Muslim students created the third incident; that is, the occupation of the den of espionage [U.S. Embassy]. [crowd chants "death to America"]

The events today in Iran are related to the point about which I am going to speak briefly. The great calamity in the world today is what I would like to call international dictatorship. This designation is a suitable reference to what is being imposed on the world nations. And it is the highest level of global arrogance.

Global arrogance means that there are governments and powers in the world which meet other nations in an arrogant manner—they plunder other nations' wealth, interfere in the way they govern themselves, and influence their policies. That is global arrogance which began in the 18th and 19th centuries with colonialism and then developed into neo-colonialism in the 20th century. Now, today, during the climax of the might of arrogant powers it materializes in the form of global arrogance. They divided the world into two poles, each side's leaders plundering their victims.

What has been added to the above system which makes the title of international dictatorship suitable is this: The world's arrogant powers, with the United States at its head, now do not even concede the right of other nations to speak and present their views. They do whatever they deem necessary for their own policy, even if it is to the detriment of other nations. For instance, in the case of Iraq, they destroy the region with their armed forces and lethal weapons. Or in other areas of the world, all sorts of crimes are committed at their behest. For instance, in occupied Palestine many calamities are seen. And the same is true of Lebanon. But if anyone or any nation presents a view contrary to the arrogant powers, or if politicians oppose them, they use full dictatorial powers to level all sorts of accusations against those nations, politicians, or governments. They do so in an effort to push them out of the arena. And they use radio stations, news agencies, their own political analysts, as well as other media, to say nothing of lethal weapons to this end. [passage omitted]

While they clash with each other—and they do—over dividing up the plundered resources of the Third World or poor countries, they have no quarrels over the principle of pressuring or plundering the resources of those

governments that put up resistance. On one side, there is a group which is in the minority, both from the standpoint of the number of governments involved and from the standpoint of the masses; on the other side, there is the majority of the world's governments and nations, which are condemned to follow the others.

Of course, nations are oppressed. They have no choice; they have no resources. Many of these governments or their statesmen give in, out of greed or for the sake of being in power for four days. This is the state of the world. What does this mean? It means dictatorship. The same thing, were it to happen in a certain country—that is, if a minority which is in power and is powerful, has resources, money, and propaganda, stands on one side, while a huge, oppressed, aggrieved, angry majority stands in opposition to it on the other side—all the world's wise men will condemn that minority.

Yet this same situation has emerged all over the world, and the world's intellectuals are looking on and ignoring this issue with indifference. These people—including writers, filmmakers, artists, and so forth throughout the world, mainly concentrated in European countries and America—exaggerate minor issues and ignore this immense issue. Just look at the state of the world!

They see to minor issues and make a fuss about those things which constitute sin in their eyes, even though they are small. If an incident occurs in a corner of the world, if a person whose life they value—they do not value the life of a black person or a Muslim—if a European is kidnapped or hurt or is under threat of both, you have seen how writers, the press, correspondents, and poets from this and that country sign petitions and disseminate them all over the world, demonstrating their presence. But for this great event, the dictatorship of a small but wealthy power in possession of advanced technology over a huge majority of people who are not given the right to live, to protest, to vote, or to have the right to democracy—they do not even give the right of democracy to them—they do nothing. These gentlemen are sitting and watching all this; this indifference on the part of the intellectuals is a completion of that despotism, a completion of that huge, global dictatorship. This is the state of the world.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, this despotism has increased to the benefit of America and the Western bloc. I did emphasize this point in two or three speeches delivered at international forums, referring to it as global hegemony. I feel today that the use of the term global despotism is a more descriptive title. International dictatorship is a more effective term, as they are practicing dictatorship over the nations of the world. This is the great calamity faced by humanity today.

The peoples of the world have only two choices. One choice is that they must surrender—which is, unfortunately, what their governments want them to do. This means they must consent to being plundered and to help the existing dictatorial and colonial system on a worldwide level.

The other choice is for the peoples to stand up and fight. Who is the target of their fight? They must fight against whatever setup or establishment strengthens the international dictatorship. They must fight that phenomenon. Sometimes it is a government, at another time a state, or indeed sometimes it is America itself with whom they must fight. At times, the peoples must endure self-sacrifice in their struggle, as is happening in Palestine and Lebanon.

Are these struggles right? Can the fair-minded people of the world blame those who want to resist against such great torrents of injustice? The unfortunate thing is that world propaganda is geared against those who struggle and resist. The world propaganda system indicts those struggling souls with all sorts of accusations in an effort to break their resistance.

One such accusation involves the issue of human rights. It is like an instrument in the hands of world powers. As soon as they see a government or a nation opposing their views, they use it against them. They accuse such governments—if need be, even a nation—of violating human rights or supporting terrorism. Today you see what kind of charges they level against the Islamic Republic, the accusations of human rights violations, and so on. These are the fabrications of the sick minds of the analysts and political writers working for them. They sit down to fabricate falsehoods against governments and nations. They use that weapon against peoples as well as their governments. They have often slandered the Iranian nation in this Islamic Republic regime with such accusations.

The question is not only that of the big powers being opposed to the leadership of the Islamic Republic; the issue is that they are opposed to the Iranian nation as well. They used to say that those who take part in Friday prayers are paid to do so. Is that not defamation? Accusing a nation of being reactionary, of being slaves to illogical thinking, of being dogmatic, and so on—is that not insulting to a nation? What has this nation done to deserve such insults? It is because this nation has made the second choice.

Well, this new person who might come up on the arena of America's policy will once again raise the slogan of human rights within a few days, and the world will witness the repeat of the same disgraceful scene. That is, accusing others of violating human rights. Who is violating human rights in the world today? Human rights are violated by the person who supports usurping Israel. Is it not true that what is happening in Palestine today is the most gross violation of human rights? Why are they not objecting? Why are they assisting Israel if they are supporters of human rights? And what is happening in Eastern Europe, in the region of Bosnia-Hercegovina? Is

this not the most tragic and the most abominable example of human rights violations?

Some independent world organizations which visited Bosnia-Hercegovina have reported on the tragedy taking shape. They all reported that the winter ahead is going to be hard and fatal. They showed films and pictures and described the plight of those kept in the camps. Why are they not intervening? Why are they not condemning those responsible? Why are they not taking steps other than words? Why do they mobilize forces when their own interests are questioned instead of the interests of Islam, the Muslims, and the oppressed?

You saw how they mobilized forces in Kuwait. There was no problem for America there. They entered a country to fight and bomb at someone else's expense. It was no loss to them to destroy Iraq and Kuwait. Are they prepared to put up with such matters in their own states, on their own borders, and in their own countries? They created a catastrophe in the Persian Gulf and destroyed the environment, the protection of which they make so many claims. Are they prepared to see the destruction of their own environment?

They do not think of human rights. If they really cared about human rights, the world would be a different place today. The devourer-and-the-devoured relationship would not have existed between them and other nations. The weak nations would not have had to put up with so much pressure. Human rights is not the issue. This is a ridiculous slogan. They had better abandon this slogan, for no one in the world will listen or notice.

I hope they will not raise the human rights issue again to create obligations for the Iranian nation. Who are they to raise the human rights issue anyway? They are the enemies of human rights. They violate human rights. But since they are impudent and shameless, they accuse anyone they want to. The loudspeakers [media] are at their disposal too. Their behavior is like that of a hypocrite pervert who accuses pious individuals of corruption and debauchery. This is the situation of human rights today. The only place in the world where the entire nation and the government have joined hands to stand against this bullying system is your dear Islamic Iran. [cheers]

Some governments do not help the tendencies for resistance they observe in their countries. We also know that there are governments that have anti-hegemonistic feelings. Not all governments are on the other side, but they do not dare do anything, either by themselves or through encouraging their nations to do something. This is wrong. The arrogant and despotic enemy has no answer for national action. National action is crushing. Why do they not let nations enter the scene?

Thank God, our nation is on the scene. I want to say that today our nation is the sole source of hope in the world of oppressed nations and is shining like a star. Be careful not to destroy this source of hope and see to it that this shining star instills hopes in the hearts of nations more and more each day. This is the historic duty of our nation. Do not think that the Iranian nation would not have had any problems had its struggle halted. This is their propaganda. Do not think that if the Iranian nation gives in to force, to the United States, and to world despotism it will have a good situation and life. This is wrong. Look at the countries that have surrendered. See what their situations are like. I do not want to name these countries. See what tragic situations prevail in these countries. Where there is glory, welfare, freedom, and independence, it is thanks to resistance against world arrogance. [cheers] [new graf]

Concerning this issue, I place my main hope on you, the youth. There is much to say about youth, but today there is no time; you want to go and join today's demonstrations, God willing. I do not want to take the time. Briefly I would say that you, the school and university students, boys or girls, have important responsibilities on your shoulders. Besides the responsibility of studying, there is a revolutionary responsibility on your shoulders, an Islamic and religious responsibility, whether in the school or university environment. This struggle is not for a year or two only, it is for generations. If the generation which is now distanced from the beginning of the revolution wishes to bring glory, to construct and empower Iran, to create a living model for other nations and rub the face of global arrogance in the dust, it has to be a revolutionary, Islamic, and faithful generation. This is you. Today you are a university or school student; tomorrow you will be turning the wheels of the country. Today you must develop yourself. Develop the universities. Develop a revolutionary and Islamic environment in the university as well as in the schools.

Do you not see that the enemy gives its utmost attention to these environments? Why is this? It is because it fears these environments. In the university environment, the revolutionary and Muslim youth must move like a single hand, like a single body, with a single mind—an Islamic and revolutionary mind. Make the environment Islamic and revolutionary. Protect yourself from whatever might be a hindrance in the way of unity in the way of God and revolution. Then you can create a university that can secure Iran's future, give honor to the Islamic Republic in the face of the enemy and the evil-minded, and give honor to the Iranian people in the face of its friends and the hopeful in the world.

It is the same with the school environment. Our Muslim youth, our believing children, had a role in the revolution. Today marks the time when a number of these students fell in their blood. The wretched Pahlavi regime also opposed the faithful and revolutionary youth and wanted to either waste, spoil, or destroy him. Today, fortunately, global arrogance and global despotism do not have the means of physically damaging our dear students. A barrier with the strength of the Islamic Republic, thank God, stands in the face of the enemy's aggression. But it is possible for it to do something in terms of moral corruption. We have to be careful. The responsibility lies with you.

The great imam lived among us for a time only, as it is with the individual. The individual is not eternal. The individual must carry out his responsibilities for the duration of his short life. The imam left us, and we too will all go. But this revolution will stay. This nation will remain. This country will stay. Our honor and independence are permanent, God willing. This depends on your development. Develop yourself. May I tell you that all the enmity, evil-mindedness, and plots which I mentioned are nothing against the will of the nations. They cannot do anything.

However, governments are vulnerable, particularly those that do not depend on the people. If governments depend on the people, as do the go.ernments of the Islamic Republic, thank God, they are strong, as you have witnessed. Those governments which do not depend on their people are vulnerable; they are forced to reconcile with America to remain in power.

But nations are not vulnerable. Governments depending on their people are not vulnerable. This is a lesson for us and for all nations. We can rub the face of global arrogance in the dust. We can prevent the influence of global despotism. I will say even more: We can even break the fortress of global despotism on an international level. [cheers] Of course there must be patience, forbearance, and continuity in struggle and effort. These things are possible. No one thought that Soviet power would be destroyed. You saw it disappear. Nations can perform miracles, and this miracle, God willing, will take place. I bid all of you dear youth to follow God and hope that you will succeed. Do not forget the advice on remaining steadfast to Islam and to the process of the revolution under all circumstances, and God willing, go and commemorate this day. May God's prayers and blessings be upon you. [cheers]

Armed Forces Ready for 'Any Command' on Bosnia

LD0411213592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The General Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces has announced in a statement that the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces are ready to implement any command issued by the eminent leader and will not deny their Muslim sisters and brothers in Bosnia-Hercegovina any kind of material and moral assistance.

Khamanei'i Donates 10 Million Rials to Bosnians

LD0511113892 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—Amir-Taymur, a street in Tehran housing the former Yugoslav Embassy has now been renamed Bosnia-Hercegovina street. An eight-day period November 4-11 has been dubbed 'the week for helping the Muslim people of Bosnia and Hercegovina' at which, in addition to informative and publicity programs, voluntary donations and contributions by Iran's Muslim people in aid to the people of Bosnia and Hercegovina will be collected.

The leader of the Islamic republic of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, today gifted rls 10 million to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The mass killing of Muslims by the Serbs and the standoffish behavior of the U.S. and the United Nations in the face of the bloodshed in that part of the world has been the topic of continuing protests by the media in Iran and by leaders of Friday congregational prayers throughout the country since the outbreak of the war in that part of the former Yugoslavia.

Technical Subcommission Memo Signed With Russia

LD0411220892 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—The 2nd session of the permanent Iran-Russian Federation joint subcommission on technical and scientific cooperation, ended its work here Wednesday with the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

The signatories to the memorandum were Iran's Deputy Energy Minister for Water Resources Ali Vakili, and Russian Deputy Minister for Science and Technical Cooperation Divmuew [name, title as received].

According to the note, the two sides agreed on the expansion of mutual cooperation in the fields of water supply, exploitation of the Caspian Sea, fisheries, forestry, livestock, health, energy, gas, oil, meteorology, topography, hydrography, and telemetery. They also agreed to set up a joint center to carry out studies and research on the Caspian Sea and enlist the cooperation of other countries of the Caspian littoral in this regard.

The session was held in Tehran from October 31 to November 4. The first session was held in Moscow in April 1990.

Besides Iran and the Russian Federation, the other countries bordering the Caspian—the world's largest inland sea—are Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan.

Kazakh Minister Notes Iran's 'Strong Influence'

LD0511054992 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0251 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, 2 Nov (TASS-KAZTAG)—Kazakhstan has addressed a proposal to Iran to take part in a regional conference on the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh. Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov, who is here as part of the state delegation, stated at a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, that representatives of "influential states of the region" would be taking part in the conference dedicated to

seeking ways of restoring peace and stability in Karabakh. The time and place for holding the conference has not yet been determined.

Suleymenov welcomed Iran's active stance in the settlement of regional crises. He stressed that Iran's foreign policy has a strong influence on the balance of power in the world. Having spoken in favor of broadening cooperation between countries of the region, the Kazakhstan minister noted that his republic was ready to take part in the work of organizing cooperation of states of the Caspian basin.

Velayati invited Kazakhstan to take part in a meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which will take place in the near future in Islamabad, and proposed that Alma-Ata become a member of ECO.

Today the official part of the visit by the delegation of Kazakhstan headed by Nursultan Nazarbayev to Iran is being concluded. According to information from one of the delegation members, there has been a change in the program of the visit: Nazarbayev and the persons accompanying him will visit Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf, where a free economic zone has been set up, and afterwards the city of Mashhad. The president of Kazakhstan, it is presumed, will return home on Tuesday.

Pakistani Chief Justice Continues Visit

Meets Iranian Counterpart

LD0311194092 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 3 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—Iran will decisively confront smuggling of drugs into Iran, said Chief Justice Hojjat ol-Eslam Morteza Moqtadai here today, calling it an "arrogant plot" aimed at undermining the Islamic republic system,

Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqtadai in a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Afzal Zillah said Iran expects Pakistan's judiciary to cooperate with Iran in this regard.

Zillah replied that he was impressed with the judicial system in Islamic Iran and said his country would like to use Iran's judicial experiences in compilation of Pakistan's laws.

Zillah in a separate meeting today with Minister of Justice Hojjat ol-Eslam Esmail Shoshtari, outlined Pakistan's laws regarding drug trafficking.

"Up to now, and due to certain reasons we have not been able to approve any laws for the execution of drug traffickers," he said adding that he would present a bill to the Pakistan parliament in this respect, and would defend it as a judicial authority.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0411202392 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Iran and Pakistan enjoy ample potentials for further expansion of bilateral cooperation, said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a meeting with the visiting Pakistani head of the Supreme Court Mohamad Afzal Zillah here Wednesday. Rafsanjani added that Iran welcomes further promotion of Tehran-Islamabad ties. Zillah heading a judicial delegation, arrived here Monday.

The president said that in his last September visit to Islamabad, he found the Pakistani people as very friendly and kind and hoped that the current visit of the Pakistani delegation will have positive impacts on consolidation of bilateral relations.

He also stressed the need for further cooperation between border security officers of Iran and Pakistan in combatting bandits and drug traffickers.

The Pakistani official said that he is in Iran to get acquainted with Iran's valuable experiences in judicial field with the aim to implement Islamic laws in Pakistan. He asserted that his talks with the Iranian judicial authorities have been very fruitful in this regard.

A member of the delegation, Dr. Rahman, who is head of the Sharia (Islamic Law) Court of Pakistan, speaking in Persian, expressed hope that the Persian language will be further promoted in Pakistan.

Australian Trade Minister Departs After Talks

LD0411210892 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Australian Minister of Trade and Overseas Development John Kerin who represented his country at the 5th Irano-Australian economic commission, left here Wednesday.

During his stay in Iran, Kerin signed a protocol on educational, economic, agricultural and mining cooperation with Iranian Minister of Agriculture Isa Kalantari.

He also visited some agricultural lands and mines in Khorasan and Kerman provinces.

Central Bank Head Asks for Industrial Investment

LD0311192192 Tehran IRNA in English 1436 GMT 3 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran should make billions of rials investments in industries and use them "as economic generator" both in domestic and regional markets, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli said here Tuesday.

"Iranian industry should become independent of foreign exchange, and generate foreign exchange," Adeli told the concluding session of a symposium on technology transfer and technical and vocational training.

The CBI governor said in order to attain her regional role, Iran should adopt appropriate policies on investment, and selection and transfer of technology. "Iran's economic achievements are the result of national determination and firm resolution."

Adeli added Iran with her natural and human resources, can become a "development pole" within the Persian Gulf region and Asia.

Over the past three years, Adeli said Iran through her economic reforms has gained "a highly successful experience." These reforms have led to significant achievements in financial, monetary, foreign exchange, and trade sectors.

In the third year of the first five-year development plan all macroeconomic indices indicate that the country is ahead of the set goals, and gross national production (GNP) has had a double-digit growth. In the past two years the GNP has registered 10, and 12 percent growth respectively.

During the period, Adeli added, agriculture, oil, industry and mining, energy, construction, and services sectors enjoyed a growth of 16.9, 37.5, 38.5, 57.5, 12, and 16.8 percent respectively.

Following the introduction of reforms in foreign exchange policies and budget, government revenues have grown by 232 percent, reducing the budget deficit, he said.

The reforms in pricing system have also boosted production, and the output of industrial sector which was 30 percent in 1367 (1988-89) reached 90 percent in the current year, he said. Meanwhile, nonoil exports also increased from less that one billion dollars to 2.7 billion dollars.

Pakistan

Reactions to Clinton's Election as President

President, Prime Minister Greet Clinton

BK0411142192 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, have greeted the U.S. president-elect, Mr. Bill Clinton. The president in his message to Mr. Clinton said that the confidence and trust that the American people have reposed in you bears testimony to your qualities of leadership and to their faith in your ability to guide America to great prosperity and success. The president expressed the hope that the new U.S. Administration and the Government of Pakistan will be able to build on the foundation of past friendship and cooperation and make fruitful contribution in addressing the problems that lie ahead. The president expressed the confidence that in striving to overcome the challenges confronting the world, our countries can contribute significantly to ensure global and regional peace.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in his message said Pakistan is a democracy and is committed to upholding basic freedom, a free economy, and human rights and that for achieving these goals, Pakistan could rely on the new U.S. Administration for ensuring peace and stability in the region. The prime minister said Pakistan and the USA have a long history and friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on numerous occasions. We have stood together in defense of common principles. The message said: Today we found ourselves on the threshold of a new era and look forward to reviving and strengthening our ties in the interest of peace, progress, and stability on our globe.

Opposition Leader Greets Clinton

BK0511110992 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Karachi (PPI)—Ms Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly has sent warmest congratulations to Mr Bill Clinton on his landslide victory as President of the United States. In a telegram sent to Mr Clinton, Ms Benazir said "as a leader of democratic opposition of Pakistan, I want to extend to you warmest and sincerest congratulations on your landslide victory as President of the United States of America." She said "I recall your gracious award to me last year of the status of ambassador of goodwill, of the state of Arkansas, when I visited Little Rock Arkansas. Your kindness to me will be remembered," she added. Ms Benazir further said "I look forward to working with you in the years ahead in the cause of democracy."

Prospect for Relations Viewed

BK0411171092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] As anticipated, the Democratic Party candidate, Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas, has won the American presidential election, although the vast margin of his victory in the Electoral College was not predicted by professional pollsters. However, one might like to know that in the popular vote count Clinton's lead was not as heavy as the commanding position that he achieved in the Electoral College lead. The curtain has finally wound down on what has been described as the bitterest electoral campaign for American president in history. Governor Clinton would in January 1993 assume the highest office in the U.S. and would bag perhaps the most important and powerful position in the world.

A dispassionate review of the election campaign of the two top contenders—the Republican nominee and the incumbent President George Bush and Democratic Party candidate President-elect Bill Clinton—and an objective assessment of the voting pattern would reveal that the American voters did not attach great importance to the successors of Mr. Bush in the sphere of foreign policy on which President Bush seems to have relied heavily. His successful steering of the 45-year cold war culminating in the disintegration of the Soviet Union and breakup of the eastern bloc and his masterly handling of the Gulf crisis in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which had earned him immense instant popularity, seem to have been forgotten by the American people who demonstrated clearly that they cared more for domestic issues, such as those of recession and economic recovery, budget deficit and taxation, jobs and unemployment, and social problems like health care and education.

The Americans were convinced that Governor Clinton had better answers to these questions than President Bush who projected his vast experience of four years as president and eight as vice president as a higher qualification than what Governor Clinton possessed. In the truest tradition of their democracy, the American people have spoken loud and clear in favor of a person who has extended a brighter hope for their future and who stands for decisive change. One wishes the American nation every success in their national objectives under the new administration.

The U.S. election has generated considerable interest in Pakistan. Understandably so. America and Pakistan have been linked with each other in more than one way and have traditionally enjoyed mutually beneficial friendly relations ever since Pakistan achieved its independent nationhood. It is true that the friendly relations between the two countries have come under strain during the last two to three years. Their perceptions on the nuclear issue have developed some divergence, resulting in suspension of the U.S. economic and military assistance to Pakistan. On Kashmir issue, the United States does not seem to appreciate the gravity of latest situation inside the occupied territory and is apparently unwilling to persuade India to honor its international commitments to allow the Kashmiri people an exercise of their right of self-determination through a UN-sponsored plebiscite. The U.S. also seems reluctant to take up strongly the question of human rights violations in held Kashmir with the Indian authorities—a value that the Americans hold so strongly.

Hopefully, the new U.S. Administration under Mr. Clinton would review these questions in their proper perspective and evolve their policies toward Pakistan on the basis of principles in a just and equitable manner. One would also expect that the mutually gainful economic and trade exchanges between Pakistan and the United States would not only continue but will be further strengthened.

Minister Criticizes India on Return of Bodies

BK0411143092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Nov 92

[Text] The special assistant to the prime minister, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, has said India's intransigence to return the bodies of the two Pakistanis killed by the Indian agencies could affect the process of normalization of relations between the two countries. Talking to newsmen in Peshawar today, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan said that the brutal killings of the two Pakistanis by the Indian agencies was an affront to the civilized world. He said Pakistan cannot remain silent on the killings of its citizens and if India continues to ignore Pakistan's request, Islamabad will take the matter before the international community.

Sri Lanka

President Sends Congratulatory Message to Clinton

BK0511111992 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa has sent a congratulatory message to the president-elect of the United States, Bill Clinton. He has said that Sri Lanka has always attached the highest importance to the development and consolidation of bilateral relations with America. Sri Lanka has also been a beneficiary of substantial economic and other assistance from the United States. President Ranasinghe Premadasa has pointed out in his message that Sri Lanka has continuously maintained its democratic tradition. More recently, it has liberalized its economy to enable the mobilization of all its people. This has led to a successful productive partnership between those with capital and investment and the small producers of human resources. [sentence as heard] The president particularly welcomed the policies Mr. Clinton had enunciated during his election campaign—those of creating in the United States the conditions that would enable the American people to contribute more effectively toward their prosperity and growth. Mr. Premadasa looks forward with confidence to the further development of bilateral ties during the tenure of office as the president of the United States.

Diamond Exports Increase 'Drastically'

BK0511121092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Nov 92

[Text] Sri Lanka's diamond exports have drastically increased from 1 billion rupees in 1986 to 3.6 billion rupees in 1990. Sri Lanka's first-ever exhibition of cut and polished diamonds in Japan last month established several promising contacts with the Japanese importers. The exhibition organized by the Export Development Board [EDB] in association with Sri Lankan Embassy in

Japan and Japan's Diamond and Precious Stones Importers Association was held at the Jewelry Trade Center in Tokyo. According to the EDB sources, the main objective of exploring the Japanese market has been successfully achieved. Five diamond exporters firms displayed products. The Japanese importers were impressed with Sri Lanka's quality of cut and polished diamonds. Since last month's exhibition was purely to attract Japanese importers, the EDB is now planning to hold an exhibition for the purpose of commercial transaction. The EDB says that they are confident that Sri Lanka will make a tremendous breakthrough in the Japanese market, fast becoming one of the leading markets in diamonds in the world.